Earth First!

Mabon 1994 — **Vol. XIV, No. VIII**

September 22 — THE *RADICAL* ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNAL — $3.50

EPISCOPAL CHURCH THREATENS BELT WOODS

Street theatre at the Episcopal Convention

BY MARK ROBINOWITZ

A coalition of forest activists from The Sierra Club, Earth First! and Washington Area Pledge of Resistance travelled to Indianapolis for the Episcopal Church's triennial convention in August to present a street theater performance dramatizing the role of the Episcopal Church in destroying a priceless piece of eastern old-growth forest. The "Belt Woods," located 20 miles east of the White House, near Bowie, Maryland, is the mid-Atlantic coastal plain's only old-growth forest ecosystem, and one of the nations best forest songbird habitats.

The Belt Woods was donated to the St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in 1959 by faithful parishioner Seton Belt, who stipulated in his will that the trees were never to be logged and the land never to be sold. The last of his lineage, Mr. Belt gave his treasured woods to the Church to safeguard his family's legacy. Instead, the Church has sought maximum profit from this land, logged some old-growth trees, and threatens most of the remaining land with a 649-house development scheme.

An Irreplaceable International Ecological Treasure

The Belt Woods are not "raw land," as Bishop Ronald Haines has called them. Rather, the US Fish and Wildlife Service calls Belt Woods "one of the finest examples of mature upland hardwood forest remaining on the Atlantic coastal plain." The old-growth tract and the surrounding partially logged forest are critical nesting habitat for numerous migratory bird species already endangered by the destruction of Central and South American forests.

In 1947, naturalists R.E. Stewart and C.S. Robbins noted that the bird populations at the Belt Woods area were the "densest that had ever been recorded in a mature deciduous forest in North America," attributing this to the diversity of age and species of trees. In 1975, a study by the Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) found the highest density of forest songbirds recorded for any deciduous forest in the US. Elsewhere in the DC area and the nation, the neotropical migratory birds that nest at Belt Woods have steeply declined. In contrast, the bird population in the state-owned portion of Belt Woods has declined by only 11%.

The Belt family's dedication to the forest is the sole reason it survives today. The few precious remnants of eastern old growth forest only exist because they were inaccessible, the surveyors made a mistake or someone wealthy treasured the forest. The area surrounding Belt Woods was settled by Europeans in the early 17th Century. All the surrounding old-growth disappeared generations ago.

Targeting the Episcopal Convention

In Indianapolis, we distributed 2,000 leaflets informing convention delegates, including most of the Church hierarchy, about the Washington Diocese's plans to destroy the Belt Woods. Our leaflet respectfully pointed out the contradictions between the convention's theme of "One God, One Family, One Earth" and the impending fate of Belt Woods. We quoted the National Episcopal Church Environment Stewardship Team, which published a document for the convention that noted how "Vast areas of the Earth have lost their forest cover—a crucial regulator of climate and rainfall and a chain of life we are only beginning to know something about."

The Pledge of Resistance, a group formed to protest US intervention in Central America, performed an excellent street theater for the conventioneers. Complete with giant "Bread and Puppet" style puppets, it told the story of the Church's disregard of Seton Belt's dying wish to protect the

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Sierra Club Reform: Restoring Muir's Legacy

BY CHAD HANSON

Sad but true: I get better treatment and more cooperation from the Forest Service than I do from Sierra Club Management—and the Forest Service routinely lies to me, cheats me, breaks the law and steals my forests in broad daylight. I still cannot entirely explain this bizarre phenomenon. The best I can do is describe and report it (I firmly believe that sunlight is the best disinfectant). The fact is that the Sierra Club, its approximately half-million members, and its $40 million annual budget, are controlled by about 30 people who have far more in common with the Wise Abuse Movement than the grassroots of the environmental movement. And by controlling its own nominations and committee appointments, Sierra Club Management has been a self-perpetuating entity for decades.

Sierra Club Management—consisting of the Board of Directors, the Executive Director and some other national staff, and the national committees (particularly the committees related to public lands)—bears substantial responsibility for numerous environmental disasters. Among them are the National Forest Management Act and the massive clearcutting that has resulted since its passage in 1976, and the Section 318 Appropriations "Rider from Hell," which prohibited legal challenges and which required and resulted in the logging of

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Lyle Point Showdown

BY FIREFLY WOMAN

In late Sept. '93 a treaty rights and freedom of religion spiritual and cultural gathering began at Lyle point, WA on the Columbia River. After a local native fisher's scaffold disappeared, the gathering became a peaceful occupational camp in protest of a proposed high-priced subdivision on traditional sacred fishing grounds. The developer's new stone walls, fences and iron gate further blocked Indian access and fishing rights to this usual and accustomed fishing and worship site, which the Treaty of 1855 (with the Yakima, Warm Springs, Umatilla and Nez Perce nations) guarantees access to. Also threatened are significant feeding and perching sites for numerous eagles, falcons, osprey, raven, hawks and waterfowl as well as Indian burial grounds and the remains of the historic town of Lyle.

The developer has threatened the encampment with eviction many times over the past year. It nevertheless remained—with the addition of tipis, a Long House, sacred fire circle and sweat lodge—until early August, when these items and other personal property were all stolen or burned on site at the unattended camp. Some of these materials, including burned tipis, were found later at a nearby dump. Even after these crimes were reported to the Klickitat County Sheriff's office, they were not investigated. The sheriff's office claims no records of any such reports.

On Aug. 27 and 28, a peaceful gathering of all nations was planned to revive the occupation and to rekindle the sacred fire in a native religious ceremony. A salmon feast afterwards also was planned by tribal members who invited their non-native friends to attend, including Greenpeace, Columbia Gorge Audubon, Media Island International (an investigative watchdog group from Olympia), and the media.

photo by Paul Dix/ Media Island International

Sheriff Gleason throttling a non-violent protestor

The developer, Henry Spencer, a wealthy wind surfer recently from the East who represents an investor's group and plans to sell lots for up to $250,000 each, filed a complaint with the sheriff's office saying that he did not want any non-tribal members (or non-treaty Indians) on his land. He asked the sheriff to arrest any of these people for trespassing.

On Saturday morning Spencer, his lawyer, the sheriff, a large police force and Yakima and Inter-Tribal police were waiting for the Indians and supporters at the property line. The native elders asked to enter the property on their easement right-of-way with about 50 of their friends. Soon one non-Indian media person was arrested when he spoke to police on the property line. Then the sheriff himself made a show of harshly grabbing a non-Indian woman who was attempting to light a cedar incense smudge while she prayed alone as a sign of

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EARTH FIRST!

NO COMPROMISE IN THE DEFENSE OF MOTHER EARTH!

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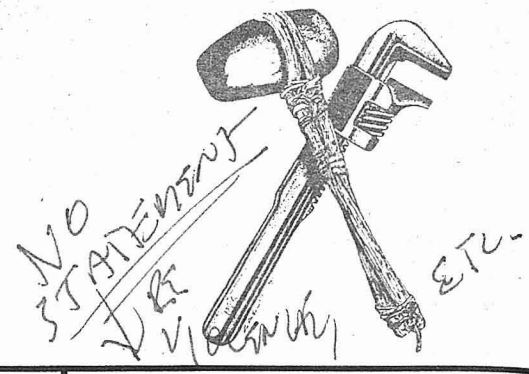


Crossover Dreams

There in the dappled moonlight, crouched in the swampy thickets of the culvert with the tripod poles, are the two radicals of differing shades of green. Light Green, wearing camo gore-tex, checking his pocket to make sure his Subaru keys don't slide into the muck. Deep Green wears a warming mantle of mossy mud over his lanky frame. Says Light to Deep, "I don't think it's appropriate for you to be seen at this demo, the media will focus on the extreme elements and paint us all as hippie scum." Says Deep to Light, "You call yourself an Earth First!er, you poser! Did ***you*** *walk lightly to this action, through wilderness corridors, eating only from the vine?* ***Hah!*** *I can smell the drive–in–burger window on your breath. Brother, only by eschewing car/meat culture can we call ourselves true agents of Gaia."*

Recently, while returning to Stumptown after driving across the West, I tuned into Pacifica Radio and heard a news piece about a Greenpeace action up in Hood River, against Stevenson Donaldson Stevenson Lumber (SDS), major owner of the Hood River Inn and the Heathman Hotel in Portland. SDS is again cutting a sensitive transition zone buffering the White Salmon River National Scenic Area. Four years ago Stumptown EF! worked with local homesteaders on their forest actions and spearheaded pickets of the Heathman in Portland. SDS blinked and the issue was forgotten in a tsunami tide of eco–distress calls.

So after years of soliciting Greenpeacers to show up at our events, I set out in their action minivan, the token EF!er, to see how *they* do things.

There we were, marching through downtown Hood River with signs and banners, confronting loggers, and yelling at the Hood River Inn through a bullhorn, telling guests to leave without paying and harassing slimeball Wally Stevenson, the owner, who was dining inside. One of our longhairs was having dog troubles around the parking lot. Cops came and went, while a huge banner billowed in the wind-surfing breeze. Yakima Chief Johnny Jackson spoke passionately through the bullhorn to a line of vehicles at a stop-sign waiting to get onto the freeway. ...Bing! It hit me. This *is* an Earth First! action. To the flipping T.

While some of us EF!ers organize phone trees and respectable press conferences, other Greenpeace activists are doing Earth First! style actions here and abroad. (*Check out the G.P. actions in the Global section, and the Lyle Point article).* They're getting restless, I hear, with their hierarchical structure, and are wanting to cut loose. Hell, one of the heads of STOP'M (Stop Toxic Open Pit Mining, [503] 221-1683) even bussed over to my place to get beer and ideas.

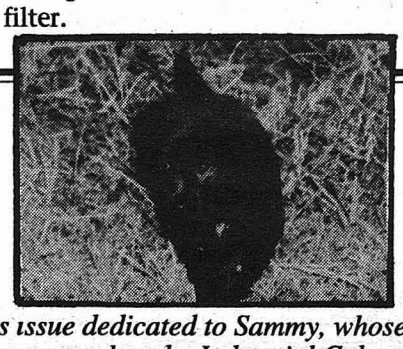
Are EF!ers having mid-life crises while other groups kick out the jams? Or is the far left field now open, because of our kamikaze drives into the end zone?

It would be pompous and lame to suggest that we patented the eco-radical stance. But we do deserve a bulk of credit. Now with harvest coming on I can't help but reflect on Jake's words (of long ago lucidity) that the greatest legacy we can hope for as a Radical Environmental Movement is coming closer to fruit: that of radicalizing the other more mainstream enviro groups.

Perhaps this is the best we can hope for. If it's true you simply put out your best effort, and get tarred and feathered in the process, then it can't help but ease the path for the next activist who comes along.

While I don't know any activists who are doing their thing for reasons beside the imperative of the moment, it's nice to know that our deeds have other unseen effects as well. Not just the lift we get when we see our actions run through the media filter.

—SLUGTHANG



This issue dedicated to Sammy, whose life was cut short by Industrial Culture manifested by a van, near the Journal *office. She was happiest rolling in dead things and getting smelly.*

MABON
Autumn Equinox

BY PEGGY SUE MCRAE

Emerging from spending the better part of summer in a stifling 10' x 10' windowless room, the earthly gifts of Autumn seem more miraculous than ever. Upon my release from jail I found myself in the golden light of twilight eating sweet ripe blackberries off the vine and reaching my hand into the heart of the first ripe watermelon of the season. Mother Earth with lavish generosity bathed me in the healing steaming waters of her mineral hot springs.

The season turns. The summer's blistering heat and wildfires seemed to invoke Kali, the destroyer Goddess. Wielding her bloody sword, Kali dances a fiery dance. With her necklace of skulls, she embodies the destruction that must take place if creativity is to flourish.

The pearly full moon of Autumn Equinox brings the soothing rains, invoking Kuan Yin, the Goddess of compassion. She comes laden with gifts that will nourish and sustain. Unlike Kali, whose expression is terrifying, Kuan Yin is tranquil. Her expression gentle. But Kuan Yin too, who is herself the embodiment of peace, carries in one hand a sword.

Earth First!
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Submissions are welcomed and should be typed or clearly printed. Send a SASE if you would like them returned. If you want confirmation of receipt of a submission, please request it. We encourage submissions on Macintosh disks or via EcoNet. Art or photographs (prints are best, negatives are good, slides are fair) are desirable to illustrate articles and essays. They will be returned if requested.

All submissions are edited for length and clarity. If an article is significantly edited, we will make a reasonable effort to contact the author prior to publication.

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SCHEDULE

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Deadline for the next issue is:
October 11th

Some Thoughts on Paranoia

BY LESLIE HEMSTREET

[Ed. note: in August, Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC) Southwest made a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for documents pertaining to Mt. Graham. The documents received contained references to an Earth First! infiltrator living in the Pacific Northwest.]

As I sit reading allegedly confidential documents obtained from the University of Arizona through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the words of an old friend run through my mind, "Ah, that can't be real. They don't release anything good unless it's years after the fact or all the good parts were deleted with black marker."

Good point. But wait, what if my friend is really the spy and he's just saying that to cover his true identity? Or what if there's another agent as well, and my friend, who has now converted to our side after years of exposure to the naked truth, is trying to cover for the spy anyway because my friend can foresee that the new spy eventually will be converted, and he's such a good organizer that we'd hate to see him go, in spite of his affiliations.

No, wait, I've figured it out. My old friend is an FBI agent and the newly discovered spy is a private industry man who has been reprimanded for sharing information with my old friend to make a little cash on the side. Even though my old friend wants all the glory and does want the other agent taken out, he needs the information and doesn't want the guy crucified, yet.

How silly! It is so obvious to me now. I am a double personality and my other personality is selling secrets to the feds.

No, I'm not writing a spy novel. I'm ashamed to admit that I really do have thoughts like these. Perhaps I'm exaggerating a bit to make a point, but the more plausible scenarios have run through my head. I imagine that everyone who has worked with Earth First! for more than a few years has come to wrestle with the paranoia beast. We know our phones are tapped. We know we are infiltrated. But who is ordering the taps? Who are the infiltrators? Who can we trust? Who shouldn't we trust? How can we operate knowing we are being bugged?

I want to answer that question by looking at the facts. There are several possibilities concerning these FOIA'ed documents. First of all, they could be part of an FBI tactic called "bad-jacketing"— an agency attempt to convince members of a group that a legitimate comrade is really a spy. Second, they could've manufactured these documents to increase the paranoia level in general, hoping to immobilize us without an individual target in mind. Third, the documents could be real. Let's take a deep breath and carefully consider all the possibilities.

Several examples of the FBI's historical use of bad-jacketing and fabrication of evidence during the COINTELPRO era are discussed in Ward Churchill and Jim Vander Wall's book, *Agents of Repression*. The agency wrote false letters and insulting cartoons to various members of groups such as the Black Panther Party and the American Indian Movement and signed the letters with the names of other members of the groups. These correspondences led to discord and sometimes even to internal assassinations. The University of Arizona police could have been slipped information about suspicions mounting against an individual who travels among us— "literally living with EF! in the Pacific Northwest"— and decided that he or she would make a viable target for bad-jacketing. The FBI or a private agency could be using the U of A police to do their dirty work since any information obtained from the FBI is immediately suspect.

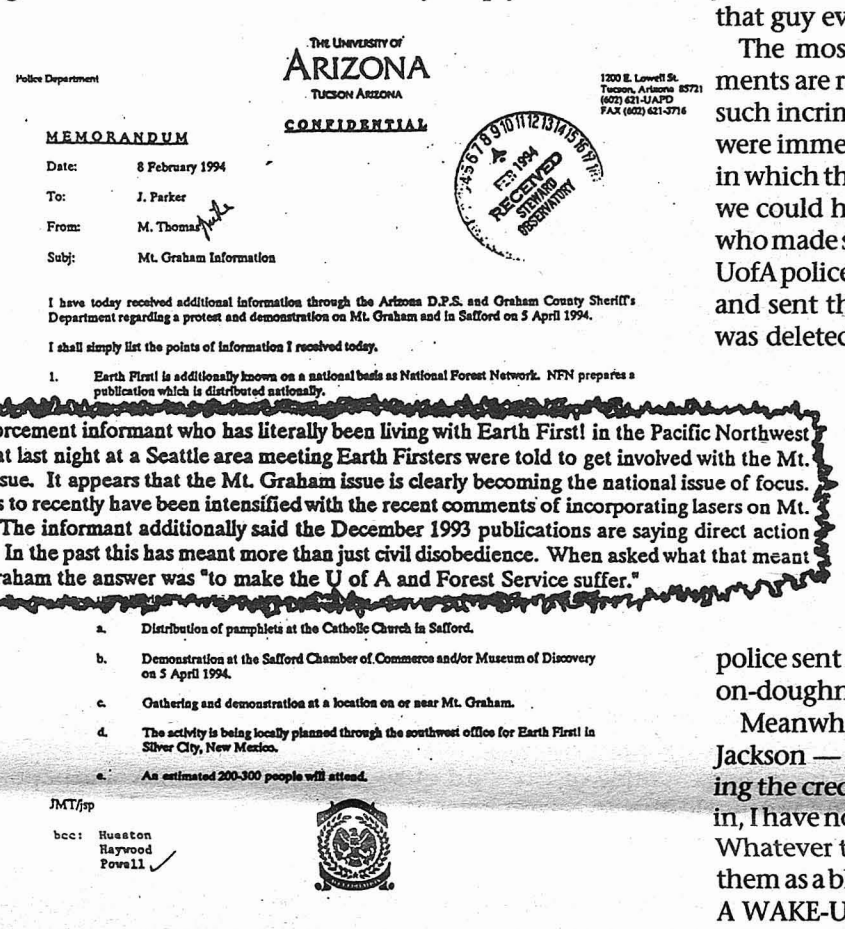
A slight variation: the documents could be just a general fabrication of evidence. Paranoia is one of the most crippling weapons that our enemies use against us. Hiring people to fabricate misinformation is much cheaper than hiring actual agents. Far more plausible than the double-personality theory is one in which a bunch of bored cops who were made fools of at Mt. Graham sit around eating doughnuts and discussing ways to exact revenge. Since they mostly have the intelligence and morals of Homer Simpson, and since they can't just kill us outright, they simply borrowed a nasty old tactic from J. Edgar Hoover. The only decent thing that guy ever did was don high heels and nail polish.

The most depressing possibility is that the documents are real. In spite of the tradition of not releasing such incriminating evidence until ten years after they were immediately relevant, there are several scenarios in which the papers could be genuine. For all we know, we could have a sympathetic friend at the university who made sure those documents got slipped in. Or, the UofA police actually could have taken the law seriously and sent the whole file as required. Perhaps nothing was deleted because FOIA allows deletions under the guise of protecting the health and identity of specific agents, and no specific agents were mentioned. Since the agents involved are not in Arizona, it may not have mattered to the university police. Maybe the university police are p.o.'ed at the big agencies because they won't take them seriously, and they're getting revenge by giving us the info. Maybe the university police sent us the documents because they are so high-on-doughnuts incompetent

Meanwhile, my people at the underground LaToya Jackson — Jackie Stallone Psychic Institute are divining the credibility of these papers. Until the results are in, I have no way of telling whether or not they are real. Whatever these documents really are, I am looking at them as a blessing, a bonus, a free gift, what we all need: A WAKE-UP CALL.

Security is of paramount importance when planning actions, legal or not. The following points may seem obvious, but in our humanness, we all need reminders.

Don't talk on the phone. Don't trust anyone with information about your illegal actions. If you suspect someone, go with your gut. Be nice to them so they'll keep working for the movement — Goddess knows we're shorthanded and outnumbered. Under no circumstances trust them with information about illegal deeds, past, present or future. Don't even tell them personal details about yourself that could leave you open to psychological warfare. Assume that they've bugged your house, your phone and your car. And if you fuck them, insist on a condom. Proceed with caution, but keep doing what you love to do: KICK BUTT FOR THE EARTH!



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CONFIDENTIAL

FEB 1994 RECEIVED STEWARD OBSERVATORY

MEMORANDUM

Date: 8 February 1994
To: J. Parker
From: M. Thomas
Subj: Mt. Graham Information

I have today received additional information through the Arizona D.P.S. and Graham County Sheriff's Department regarding a protest and demonstration on Mt. Graham and in Safford on 5 April 1994.

I shall simply list the points of information I received today.

1. Earth First! is additionally known on a national basis as National Forest Network. NFN prepares a publication which is distributed nationally.

A law enforcement informant who has literally been living with Earth First! in the Pacific Northwest reports that last night at a Seattle area meeting Earth Firsters were told to get involved with the Mt. Graham issue. It appears that the Mt. Graham issue is clearly becoming the national issue of focus. This seems to recently have been intensified with the recent comments of incorporating lasers on Mt. Graham. The informant additionally said the December 1993 publications are saying direct action is needed. In the past this has meant more than just civil disobedience. When asked what that meant for Mt. Graham the answer was "to make the U of A and Forest Service suffer."

a. Distribution of pamphlets at the Catholic Church in Safford.

b. Demonstration at the Safford Chamber of Commerce and/or Museum of Discovery on 5 April 1994.

c. Gathering and demonstration at a location on or near Mt. Graham.

d. The activity is being locally planned through the southwest office for Earth First! in Silver City, New Mexico.

e. An estimated 200-300 people will attend.

JMT/jsp

bcc: Hueston
Haywood
Powell

Letters to the Editors:

Dear Fellow Gaians, TACH OK -- E-mail better than options

After reading the Lughnasad edition of the *EF! Journal*, I feel compelled for the first time, to respond. This is not a criticism of the journal at all, this is a criticism of the insert "Wake Up!" and it's not a criticism of its contents, but of the tag line at the end: "this is computerless reproduction, printed on recycled paper."

I have no argument with recycled paper, and as a matter of fact I am a strong advocate of the use of recycled paper, as well as trying to convert to hemp paper, and I worked for EDF on dioxin issues, but I do take a bit of umbrage at the "computerless reproduction." This strikes me as an elitist attitude that is hypocritical to say the least.

I am writing this on e-mail, sending this without wasting the resources of the United States Postage Service and Gaia in terms of gas and money, not wasting any trees, or the resources necessary to produce the energy to recycle paper. I am using (quite possibly) the possible stimulation for Gaia to rejuvenate her consciousness.

Granted, it took some rather toxic technology to create my computer, but the internet negates the need, except for online energy use, to support the energy producing, tree reducing, practice of most submissions to newsletters.

I am not positive, but reasonably sure, that the staff of *Earth First!* had to scan your newsletter, and/or re-type it, so that it would fit into the overall file that they use to reproduce on mass scale, the *EF! Journal*. And did you use an electronic typewriter? And did you realize, even if you didn't that it took resources to cast the iron for your manual typewriter? And if you hand wrote the newspaper did you realize the amount of technology that it took to produce your pen or pencil and the amount of technology it took to produce the recycled paper that you printed it on? And if you hand wrote this with homemade inks, and handmade paper how much technology you probably connected to to LEARN how to do this?

Let's not throw the baby out with the bath water. Technology is NOT a bad thing if used responsibly. Much of the knowledge that you have you would probably not have if it weren't for the fact that computers exist, that the media exists etc. Let's not blame the medium, let's blame the thoughtless intent and the greed involved behind the application and development of technology!

—JOY WILLIAMS, SCION
CHURCH OF ALL WORLDS

Letters to the Editor,

Hey, I think I finally figured it out. I don't know how you did it, but it was quite a coup getting Al Gore to write that Justin Time column. Seeing as how he's in office now and can no longer think for himself or display any discernable values, it's nice that you've given him an outlet for all of that repressed green fire. Maybe you could help Dollar Bill find his voice too.
Many thanks,

—TIPPER, PRESIDENT,
FREE AL GORE COMMITTEE
WASHINGTON, DC

To the Editors:

Good to see mention of human extinction in Whaley Mander's Lughnasadh editorial, even if it was only hypothetical.
Yes, the only hope for wild nature is to let it be, but that's not easy when there are so many of us. Each new human we don't create avoids a lifetime of impacting Earth's biosphere: a major contribution in over-industrialized regions such as North America. The human extinction machine doesn't exist, but we still have the means to voluntarily become extinct, simply by adding no more of our kind to the existing billions. May we live long and die out.

—LES U. KNIGHT
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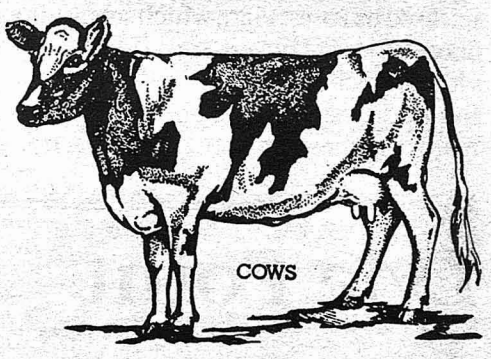


To "Peeved in Corvallis ":

We think he's writing about people. He mentions the term "people" twice, so we assume he is talking about male *and* female activists. But of course not. Women are just "hippie chicks" without brains, laying aroung waiting to be drilled. Activists are men. When he talks about hippie chicks being drilled, what else are we supposed to think? That womyn are taking power drills and ramming them up other womyn's vaginas? No, we're talking about men using their dicks as weapons again (and the author says the men are getting great pleasure out of this). I for one, as a womyn, am not a chick and have no desire to be "drilled." That sounds very painful and forced upon me. A bit like fucking the land, wouldn't you say. Get a clue. This sexist/rapist mentality among male environmentalists must end now.

—LAURIE MOSELY
SANTA CRUZ, CA

SUGARLOAF SALE AWARDED

First Major Sale under Clinton Forest Plan Lies Within Spotted Owl Reserve

BY COBBLED TOGETHER

The threat of destruction has been hanging over the awe-inspiring forest of Grayback Mountain, in the Siskiyou National Forest south of Williams, Oregon, for ten long years. Plans to cut these trees have been delayed and changed by a complex series of events involving all the major players in the drama of ancient forest defense in the Pacific Northwest. Everyone from local citizens and lawyers for the northern spotted owl to the US Supreme Court has had a hand in the Sugarloaf timber sale—a story fast heading towards its climax with the awarding of the sale to Boise Cascade in August.

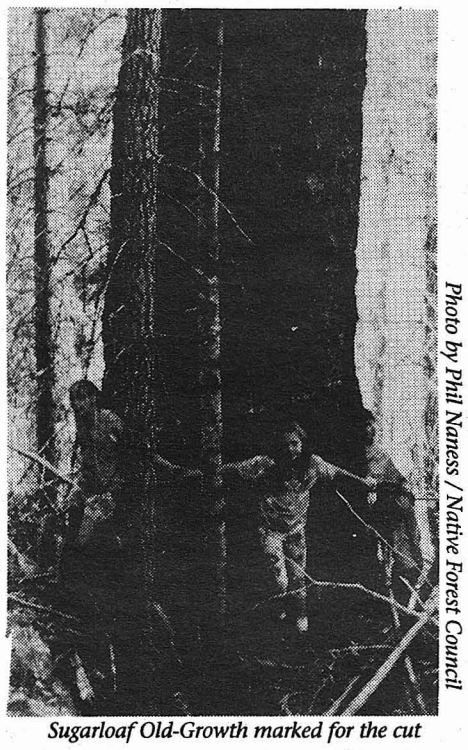


Photo by Phil Naness / Native Forest Council

Sugarloaf Old-Growth marked for the cut

Boise Cascade accepted the sale on Sept. 2. They now have four years in which to decimate the 669 acres of Douglas fir, white fir and ponderosa pine. The area proposed for cutting in Sugarloaf falls entirely within forests designated as among the "most significant" late seral/old-growth forests in the Pacific Northwest by the Scientific Panel on Late-Successional Forest Ecosystems.

Seen from a satellite high in space, the forests this sale would fragment and destroy appear as a dark, cool island in a sea of encroaching clearcuts. The Kangaroo Roadless Area, of which Mount Grayback is part, covers over 20,000 acres of continuous old-growth and mature forest and is only matched by a few other areas in the Siskiyous. This critical stretch of wildlands extends over twenty miles from the Klamath River in California north through the Red Buttes Wilderness to the Applegate Valley in Oregon. Further connections beyond this core area to the north and south make it, according to Dr. Reed Noss of the Society for Conservation Biology, part of "the best remaining corridor of relatively unfragmented, native forest that links the northern California Klamath Mountains with the southern Oregon Siskiyous." The area provides habitat for many wildlife species, including cougar, black bear, wolverine, pine marten, Siskiyou mountain salamander, and the northern spotted owl.

An Ugly Inauguration of Forest Plan

After years of battle, the Clinton Administration released its Forest Plan, which sets aside a series of Late-Successional (Ancient Forest) Reserves meant to provide protection for the northern spotted owl, under the guidelines of (co-)Option 9. Significantly, this first major timber sale put out under the new plan actually occurs *within* a Reserve Area. The Mount Grayback drainage was also identified as a "Key Watershed," critical to the recovery of dwindling salmon stocks. Ironically, while Boise Cascade is busy logging Sugarloaf, taxpayer dollars will be trickling away in a joint Forest Service/Oregon State stream restoration project directly downstream from the sale area.

If there were any doubts that the Clinton forest plan was a political deal to appease the timber industry, they were erased with this sale. With the release of the Draft Forest Plan in July 1993, activists were relieved to see that Grayback Mountain had been protected within a spotted-owl reserve. Within two months, however, the Clinton Administration caved in to the pressure for more timber, and the Record of Decision for Clinton's Final Plan created a special loophole allowing 20 old timber sales to be cut within the boundaries of Late-Successional Reserves. The loophole allows for selective logging in the spotted owl reserves under the guise of "reducing the risk of catastrophic fire."

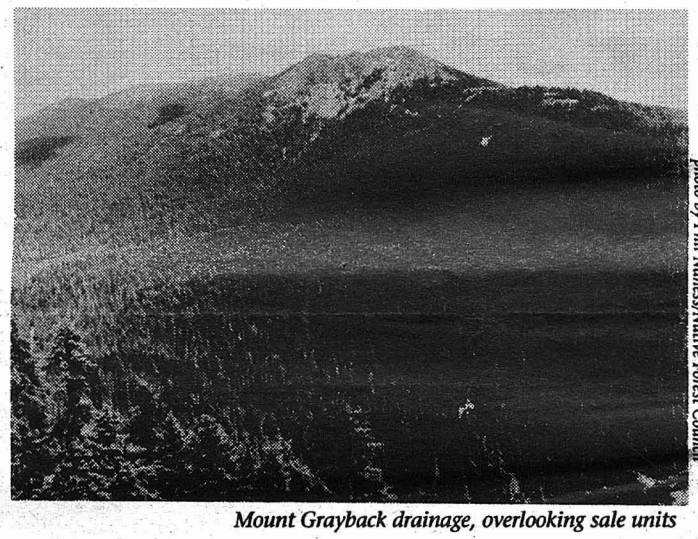


photo by Phil Naness/Native Forest Council

Mount Grayback drainage, overlooking sale units

Sugarloaf is being touted by the Siskiyou National Forest as an example of the kind of selective timber sales that they plan to carry out in reserves and roadless areas all across the region. Yet there has been no analysis to justify this kind of cutting in reserves, nor has a Watershed Analysis—required before entering Key Watersheds or roadless areas—been performed.

Furthermore, the Forest Service claimed that only 20 percent of the sale area was old growth. According to Siskiyou National Forest Supervisor Mike Lunn, most of the trees in the sale are less than 90 years old. The silviculturist's report, however, says 80 percent of the sale area contains trees over 250 years. Two-thirds of the volume of the sale comes from big, old trees, some over 700 years old and seven feet in diameter. The Administration and the Forest Service are simply trying to cover up bad politics with poor science and outright lies.

Ironically, Grayback Mountain escaped the infamous "section 318 sales", one of which being the Sugarloaf sale, intact. Section 318, the so-called "Rider from Hell," was the all-out assault on the Pacific Northwest's forests launched by Mark Hatfield in 1989. It exempted timber sales from environmental laws and mandated historic high-cut levels on Northwest forests. Sugarloaf is unique in that the citizen advisory panel established as part of the 318 process refused to approve the sale. The Siskiyou National Forest subsequently offered the sale anyway.

No Surrender for Sugarloaf

Over 200 wilderness lovers showed up to "Walk for the Wild Siskiyou", Aug. 26-28, a hike to the Sugarloaf sale. Participants took day hikes through the units to see first hand the amazing trees ominously marked with blue paint.

The following week over a hundred people participated in demonstrations in four cities outside the Boise Cascade offices to try to convince the timber giant to reject the sale. They didn't.

This sale has been the focus of massive opposition since it was first proposed ten years ago. It has been the subject of a lawsuit, large scale public protests, a tree spiking, federal closures and angry confrontations with Forest Service personnel. Yet, never has Grayback Mountain more urgently needed your help. This is a call to action. We must not let this wondrous place fall to greedy hands. Be creative—there are many folks involved in this slaughter, from the White House to our friendly freddie neighbors. Come to the Siskiyous and drop in on Mike Lunn (Greenfield Road in Grant's Pass, right next to I-5; or call him at (503)471-6507), Boise Cascade in Medford (North Pacific Highway) or the sale site (look for the trees with blue paint). See you around.

Write letters of disgust to
Boise Cascade Corp.
POB 50 Boise, ID 83728 ; (208) 384-6161,
fax (208)384-7298.
For more information call (503) 592-3386.

Lyle Point

continued from page 1

peace on the county road nearby. As she was forcefully led away, other supporters asked the sheriff why she was being arrested. At this point the supporters gathered around the squad car she had been taken to, demanding to know the charges against her. The sheriff refused to answer, telling everyone to get out of his way. Tempers flared as the crowd attempted to capture these actions on film and video. A Greenpeace man stepped up to calm the crowd when the sheriff grabbed him by the hair, then put him in a neck-hold and slammed him brutally against the squad car. The man is now being charged with obstruction and possibly assault. The cedar woman was soon released from jail, and charges of violating a burn ban were dropped. Another man was charged with criminal trespass while one reporter's thumb was bent backwards as she took photos. She has filed police brutality charges. During this incident some nine different police agencies from four counties in Washington and Oregon—as well as a SWAT team—were dispatched to stand-by. Some 30 or more police cars, outnumbering the protestors gathered nearby.

Later that evening after a ritual feast, the supporters gathered at the public boat launch to listen to a Nez Perce spiritual leader and others. Around this time, Sheriff Jim Gleason was overheard at the County Fair telling a group of cowboys to gather their horses and ride down to Lyle with him the next day to "shoot us some Indians."

On Sunday morning more media people from Portland TV gathered with the natives and supporters for a prayer circle before walking quietly to the property line while the intimidating sheriff waited with his hand on his gun in front of his deputies. Again the elder natives asked to enter on their treaty easement to conduct a religious ceremony and were again told only treaty Indians were allowed. When some native elders proceeded through the gate and beckoned the others to follow, a large number of people linked hands as a sign of solidarity and followed, whereupon Sheriff Gleason arbitrarily arrested 19 people including one Haida native. Even a reporter from KCMU Radio in Seattle was arrested while attempting to interview the officers.

A federal Civil Rights violations complaint was filed against Klickitat County, several area police agencies, and Henry Spencer following the arrests.

The Treaty of 1855 gives the tribes an unencumbered easement for the right of access, with the right to decide who may or may not use this easement to their site.

If you would like to help, please send donations of money, food or supplies, and PLEASE spread the word of their struggle to anyone who will listen. Your presence is needed!

Lyle Support Group, PO Box 536
Lyle, WA 97635 –or–
601 Washington St., Lyle WA
(509) 365-5177

Raging at the Stolen Wealth Games:
Fighting the Spirit of Genocide

BY FRASER

The XV Commonwealth Games, Victoria, British Columbia: an opportunity for tax dollar expenditure for the celebration of colonization by business and government; a chance to explode the "Beautiful BC" myth for enviro-activists. The games are an Olympics-style event featuring athletes from the 66 countries at one time occupied and enslaved by England. Thousands of athletes, coaches, "dignitaries" and media converged on Victoria between the 18th and 28th of August for a jolly old celebration of fair sport and were subject to the almost daily enlightening efforts of the Rainforest Action Camp, or RAC.

RAC was created by Friends of Clayoquot Sound (FOCS) and a consortium of groups including Terra Prima! and Forest Action Network. The idea behind RAC was to create a base camp that different groups could use, share skills and learn to respect each other's style of activism from.

British Columbia is facing unprecedented cutting rates at the lowest job/wood-volume ratio in the world, on land that was never ceded by indigenous peoples. Land claims by First Nations are only now having any kind of success, despite admissions by ministers in the provincial government that the combined First Nations actually own as much as 95 percent of the land mass!

Actions began more than a week before the actual start of the games and targeted incoming tourists, foreign government types, and participants alike. Actions varied from dancing, singing woo-fests that careened through the streets to krypto-lockdowns and banner-hangings. The RAC collaboration resulted in eleven days of inspiring actions.

Day one: Peacekeepers "encouraged" traffic coming from the ferry terminal to occupy only one lane of traffic, facilitating pamphleting and conversation between incoming tourists and RACers. Cars were forced to crawl by the banners and were allowed to pass once they took copies of the eco-propaganda. Twenty members of RAC participated in this training action, initiating the process of efficient, friendly action.

Day two: Direct Action Media presented the Times-Colonizer (a spoof on Victoria's *Times-Colonist*). The de-constructionist two-page paper was wrapped around the morning edition of the *Times-Colonist* in most of the downtown newspaper dispensers. The first page highlighted NDP's (the provincial ruling party) creation of the Ministry of Public Relations, headed up by the "World's Largest Public Relations Firm, Burson-Marsteller International." A description was also given of the surveillance cameras installed in various locations around Victoria by the Police State (no joke!) and a brutal history of the British Empire, 'cause there's nothing common about wealth.

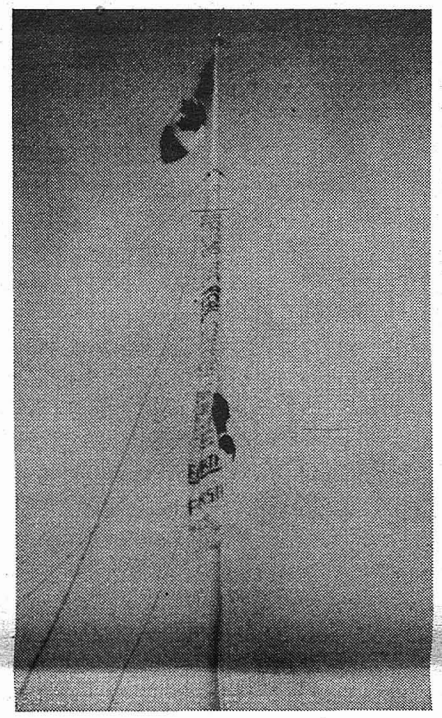
Day three: Malaysia will be the next host of the Stolen Wealth Shames, continuing the tradition of having the games in a nation guilty of extensive eco/genocide. Prince Edward (Prince Charles' brother) hosted a dinner for Malaysian royalty and government officials at the Eaton Center in downtown Victoria, providing an opportunity to object to the practices of BC, the UK and Malaysia all in one go. Blood covered the sidewalk in front of the two main entrances to the building, banners blanketed walls, and ranters loudly informed the passing dinner guests of the travesties committed by the present and future host countries. A long-hair in suit krypto-locked to a tree, first on one side of the Center, then on the other. A "talking-briefcase" was handcuffed to the activist, quoting Al Gore and Prince Charles, who have stated in the past that Malaysia's treatment of the Penan of Sarawak is reprehensible and that the Penan are the front-line of resistance to ecological destruction. No arrests were made, but the "honored" guests looked pretty put-out (especially the King and Queen of Malaysia, who were conveyed through the parking garage, instead of up the red carpet at the front door).

Day five: The Ministry of Environment, Lands & Parks (MofE) is responsible for provincial "public lands," including the mismanagement of wildlife. Despite Canada's signing of international treaties and agreements—ostensibly to protect biodiversity—the ministry has refused to act proactively within lands the province claims as it's own. One of their most infamous activities has been the use of compound 1080 to poison the wolves of BC. Six activists clad in chemical safety suits and gas masks attempted to enter the front of the building on a business morning, but were repelled by security. Seated comfortably in the foyer, they began a partial occupation, supported by 30 chanting banner-carriers outside. Two gutsy young occupiers entered an open first-floor window on the other side of the building. They sat there for 20 minutes, calling media on an office phone, scampering off through the basement and out of the building after being sighted. The harassment lasted all day, until representatives of the RAC met with ministry officials and extracted several conditions for an end to the day's events. RAC members were permitted to hand out literature describing treaty violations to all MofE employees. Friends of Clayoquot Sound will give a slideshow at the monthly MofE staff meeting, and will meet with MofE representatives on the Interagency Review Team who approve cutblocks in Clayoquot Sound.

Day seven: The second attempt to occupy a Ministry building succeeded, primarily due to the willingness of a group of minors to lock down inside. One group locked to eye-bolts inserted in a huge log, lugged into the main lobby of the Ministry of Finance. The Ministry of Finance is responsible for providing tax-breaks and public-money grants to resource-extraction corporations, such as MacMillan-Bloedel. Another group poured into a side entrance, first taking over the reception area and eventually entering a working area. The action began in the afternoon and was scheduled to last only a few hours. Little did we know that we would stay all night, without food, water, or access to toilets. The lockdown group, who ranged in age from 14 to 18, called themselves Youths for a Sustainable Future and demanded a meeting with ministry representatives about the misuse of the public funds to bolster corporate rapers. They were bullshitted by a couple of PR guys, briefly threatened by cops, then left alone overnight with three times the normal security for the building. Lots of support showed up outside, with dozens of people sleeping on the lawn next to the building. Even Hare Krishnas came by and drummed and danced for an hour. By morning, the youths were pretty tired, but not willing to leave without certain demands being met. The ministry refused to have any kind of recording device present during the meeting, eventually held between several of the youths and ministry smooth-talkers. After the meeting, the persistent RACers described being talked around, laughed at and generally not taken seriously. They figured the meeting was only arranged to get everyone out of the building, with the ministry having no intentions of clarifying their dealings with the timber industry. Again, no arrests were made, indicating the unwillingness of the government to engage in any behavior that might make them look bad while international media was in town. Too bad for them, good for us.

Day eight: The RACers went straight from the Ministry of Finance occupation to the "Funeral for the Forests." The morbid march snaked through downtown, replete with grim reapers, coffins and tombstones. The 300-plus endangered species in BC were represented by tombstones, in anticipation of their demise under the industrial blade. Participants demanded an Endangered Species Act for Canada and serious action to protect biodiversity, especially since Canada was the first signatory of the Biodiversity Convention at Rio de Janeiro.

Day ten: Armed with detailed information about the inside of the building (courtesy of some Vancouver allies), the front lobby and the office of the Minister of deForestry John Cuthbert was occupied within minutes of arrival. Doors were secured by padlocking a chain around the handles. Within ten minutes, two climbers were hanging from the four-story roof with a banner stretched between them, depicting a clearcut with the legend "coming soon to a forest near you." Street artists re-created a clearcut and dry stream bed (complete with salmon carcasses) on the sidewalk in front of the ministry, painted slogans on the front of the building, and chalked outlines of salmon, bears and wolves on the road and sidewalk. The usual ranting and literature dispersal ensued, the cops didn't bother coming by and a meeting was arranged with government mouthpieces. This time, activists present said that the mood was not one of derision, but rather of limited support for conservationists' proposals. Of course, no promises were made and no indications were given that the ministry would take action to save currently threatened species and their habitat.



"Ralph Waldo Emerson" atop flagopole

Day eleven: In probably the most succinct action of the summer, *"Ralph Waldo Emerson"* showed up on the lawn of the legislature building, the site of the Stolen Wealth concerts (attended by tens of thousands). He swiftly climbed up a cable supporting a 120-foot flagpole, topped by the Canadian flag. He gradually made his way up, aided by much hooting and hollering from friendlies below and an impromptu set by Casey Neill. After a couple of hours, he had a 50 foot banner secured and hanging from about the 100 foot mark on the pole, exhorting the masses to "Defend the *Real* Commonwealth—Earth First!" with a salmon graphic underneath. Meanwhile, a couple of buddies were harassed and eventually arrested for shouting directions to him. One provided a bit of excitement by breaking away from a group of RCMPs and dashing through the seated crowd, until apprehended and taken away. The two were later released without being charged. On his way down, "Ralph" and crew made a deal allowing them to keep their gear and face only a minor criminal charge of "disturbing the peace." A large crowd greeted him at the bottom, chanting "let him go" to the RCMPs gathered at his feet.

Throughout the games, non-uniformed surveillance crews videotaped and photographed any and all people in and near the actions. They refused to answer questions, identify themselves, or be videotaped in return. Almost without exception they turned and walked away when a video camera was pointed their way. Media was either positive or neutral, with at least one TV, radio, or newspaper spot per action. A hardworking crew kept radical lockdowners and low-baggers alike fed and organized, using donated food and intense concentration to pull it all off. Along with the actions described above, several smaller demos were pulled off, giving Victoria and the games something to think about every day. BC tried to make use of stolen wealth and stolen lands for the games and found once more that we will not back down in the face of continuing ecosystem destruction.

Information for this article was also contributed by Carrie St-Pierre, Al Decker, Jo Lui, and other RACers.

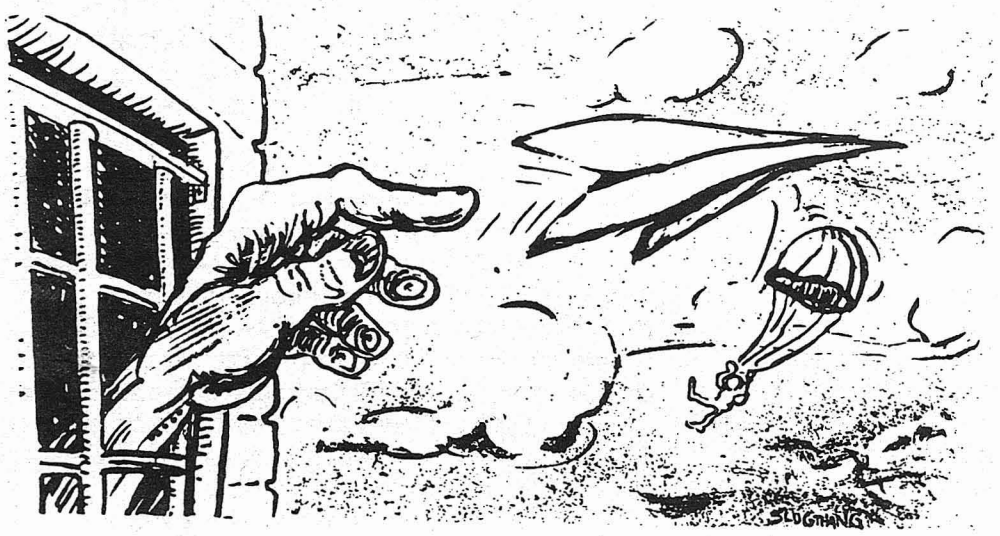
David Barbarash and Kim Trimiew Both Released!

David Barbarash, who was in jail since May of this year—for charges stemming from the liberation of 29 cats from the University of Alberta in 1992—was recently released from Edmonton Remand Centre. Originally charged with several serious charges, with the prosecution asking for six to nine months in jail and time served, David accepted a plea-bargain and pled guilty to a lesser charge of "accessory after the fact." On September 8, David was sentenced to 18 months probation, 200 hours of community service and time served, and was released later that day. David sends heart-felt thanks to all who supported him during his incarceration and promises to stay wild!

Darren Thurston, who is still imprisoned on charges related to the 1992 University of Alberta raid and another ALF action, originally received a suspended sentence and an order to pay $75,000 in restitution in September 1993. The Crown Prosecutor appealed Darren's sentence and successfully obtained another two years in jail. It remains to be seen whether or not the Crown will appeal David's sentence; they have 30 days to do so.

Darren Thurston's address is: Calgary Correctional Centre, Box 3250, Station B, Calgary, AB T2M 4L9, Canada.

—North American ALFSG



Mark Davis Needs Support

Mark Davis is the only remaining defendant in the Arizona Five case who is still in prison. He is scheduled to be released in June 1995, after four years behind bars. Like his co-defendant, Peg Millett, who spent the last several months of her two-year sentence in a halfway house, Mark expected to get his last four to six months in a transitional work-furlough type program, as is commonly granted to non-violent inmates with a record of "good behavior." Mark recently learned that he had been granted only two months in a halfway house—a great disappointment to him. This means he must spend seven more months in prison. Please write and offer Mark some encouragement.

Mark Davis #23106-008, Federal Prison Camp, POB 1000, Boron, CA 93596.

Scout Walkingflower:

Cove/Mallard Activist Still in Jail

Scout Walkingflower was arrested on August 17, 1993, while participating in the Wild Rockies Wilderness Day action at Cove/Mallard. He was accused of threatening an officer, resisting arrest, two violations of a federal closure order, and placing objects on a forest road to impede traffic. On August 4, 1994, Scout finally had his day in court. At the trial Scout told the defense that he was arrested outside the closure after taking some photographs of police macing other demonstrators. The District Attorney tried to portray Scout as being violent, claiming that he had challenged several US Forest Service law enforcement agents, three times his size, to a fist fight. The Forest Service flew in thirteen witnesses to bolster its case.

The jury wasn't sold on the idea that someone named Scout Walkingflower, who smiles a lot, would go around threatening packs of very large men in uniform to fisticuffs. Although he was found innocent of the assault charges, he was convicted on the closure violations, the obstruction charge and failure to appear. After the trial, the jury foreman phoned Scout's attorney and explained that the jury wanted to acquit Scout on all charges but felt that they had to follow the judge's very narrow instructions.

Scout Walkingflower is in jail awaiting sentencing on October 19. It's hoped he'll get time served, since he's been in jail for five months already. He needs letters of support and visitors in the Moscow slammer.

Scout Walkingflower, Latah County Jail, Moscow, ID 83843.

On August 29th I was at last released from the Spokane County Jail after 193 days of needless waiting. Judge Fremming Neilsen presumably responded to a letter written by my attorney, who reminded him of my existence and my continued unwillingness to appear before the grand jury. Within a day of receiving it, amazingly, the judge conceded and ordered the US Marshalls to remove me from their generous custody. Hours later I was back on the streets of lovely Spokane, Washington, seeing the city I'd spent so many days in without the slightest idea of what it was like—other than the jail and it's various frequenters. However something tells me that a jail says a lot about the city it's in. Spokane is not on my list of future inhabitances.

I would like to thank all those who sent letters and contributions to me during that time. It is almost difficult to express how much it improved my day to receive encouraging words, and images of the inaccessible outside world.

—Kim Trimiew

Lise Olsen:

Guilty Until Proven Innocent

In November 1992 Chicago activist Lise Olsen was arrested at her home. Earlier that year, Lise had hung 21 homemade lanterns fueled with a very small amount of gasoline near a railroad trestle to illuminate a 30-foot red, white and blue "Freedom" banner. The banner was over the railway overpass, on which pro-fur advertising was printed. Lise had designed these lanterns to burn like small torches, for about five minutes, and then go out; only one of the lanterns actually lit, and it did indeed burn for five minutes with a very small flame. Because the lanterns had failed to light, Lise decided it was useless to take pictures for the media, and removed her banner.

Four months later, she was arrested for attempted arson, and released on a $20,000 bond. According to Lise, "although I denied it categorically, the detective who arrested me, Robert Schatzel, told the media and the Grand Jury that I had confessed to it. The terrible media I received convicted me before my trial. When the detective was challenged by my attorney at my trial to produce the supposed signed confession, of course he couldn't. He just said he had made an 'error' about it." Lise describes her July 1994 trial as a "farce" and lists countless procedural "irregularities," including manipulation of evidence and obvious judicial bias. Despite a military explosives consultant's testimony that the lanterns were candles, not incendiaries, Lise was convicted of possession of incendiary devices, manufacture of incendiary devices, transportation of incendiary devices, unlawful use of a weapon, i.e. possession of more than 3 teaspoonfuls of gasoline. After her conviction Lise spent over a month in appalling conditions at the Cook County Jail, awaiting sentencing. During this time she undertook a hunger strike in protest of her incarceration as a political prisoner. On August 31, Lise was sentenced to four years imprisonment.

Despite everything, Lise remains strong. It is clear that this attempt to use Lise as an example to terrorize other activists will not be successful, for Lise continues to resist even while behind bars and her courage serves as inspiration for the rest of us. Lise was recently moved to a prison in Dwight, Illinois. Her address is still unconfirmed, so we are recommending that people send mail to Lise c/o the North American ALFSG until we are sure of her address. Anyone wishing to write her directly can try: Lise Olsen, Inmate, POB 50001, Dwight, IL 60420 USA. Donations for Lise can also be sent to the Animal Liberation Front Support Group. We will make sure that everything gets passed on to Lise.

North American Animal Liberation Front Supporters Group (ALFSG)
POB 8673, Victoria, BC Canada V8X 3S2, e-mail: un028@freenet.victoria.bc.ca

Support Group Needs $$$

Hey Folks!

This is yet another disgusting plea for cash-ola. Over the past several months the Animal Liberation Front Support Group (ALFSG) has been working hard to support two of our brothers in jail, Darren Thurston and myself. In doing so, they are now in debt. Based in Victoria, British Columbia, they have incurred a modest long distance phone bill while keeping in contact with both of us. They sent money to help us buy stamps, envelopes and food, and sent out updates on our situation. Most recently, several members of the ALFSG traveled to Edmonton to lend moral support at my hearing and to visit us in this activist wasteland. Now, after all they've done, they find themselves in debt to the tune of $2,000, most of this coming from their own pockets. I'm asking you to help them out, on behalf of myself and Darren, on behalf of our movement, and on behalf of all the critters we are fighting for. Please send whatever you can afford. Their newsletter, *Underground*, is also available for a few bucks. Checks and money orders can be made payable to ALFSG, POB 8763, Victoria BC, Canada V8W 3S2.

—David Barbarash

The Pirates of MAXXAM

BY DARRYL CHERNEY

After attending a number of Pagan gatherings where I gave workshops on "The Craft of Protest" and sang my original environmental songs, I began—just began, mind you—to get a clearer picture of how the pagan community might meld with the environmental community. So when the M/V Greenpeace, a 190-foot icebreaker, sailed into San Francisco Bay and offered to stage a press conference on behalf of Headwaters Forest, my mischievous mind began to work.

Somehow, we needed to connect the forest issue to this large boat for the press conference. Well, 200,000 acres of redwoods, much of it old growth, had been taken over by a junk bond pirate named Charles Hurwitz of the MAXXAM Corporation of Houston, Texas. Pirate ... pirate ... Ah, yes. Pirates! That goes along with the boat theme, it does. Now, where can I find some pirates, I asks me-self. Wait. Didn't I see a bunch of pagans dressing up and talking like pirates at several of the events I attended?

Next thing you know, Morning Glory Zell, Cindy Pfaff (Cap'n Barbecue), Elantari and yours truly (all from Church of All Worlds, the oldest pagan "church" in the US) are dressed to the nines with pirate hats, silk shirts and real swords. Viola! The Pirates of MAXXAM. And with our appetites not quite whetted from our piracy and clearcutting of the redwoods, our next raid is going to be ... the M/V Greenpeace, right in the middle of their bloody, stinking press conference. Arrgh! We made 'em walk the redwood plank, we did. Captain Hurwitz (played by Morning Glory, the second in a series of female Hurwitz impersonators) was joined by his MAXXAM maties, Crazy George Kozmetsky (Cindy) and Lord High Chancellor Barry Munitz (Darryl). We plotted the corporate takeover of Greenpeace and sang "I am a Junk Bond King," to the tune of Gilbert and Sullivan's "I am a Pirate King." *The Wall Street Journal, San Francisco Examiner* and local radio and TV covered the event.

photo by Greenpeace ™

Karen Pickett of EF! and Tracy Katelman of EPIC look on fearfully as the Pirates of MAXXAM "take over" the M.V. Greenpeace, a 190-foot icebreaker docked in San Francisco to promote Headwaters Forest.

The conference was called at a critical time. The Headwaters Forest Act is sailing through Congress, but the session ends October 9. We're getting ready for a full House vote, and the Senate may have to run it through the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, chaired by ultra-conservative Louisiana Democrat, Bennett Johnson. On the other hand, the Senate, having no rules (did you know that?), might run it for a full vote soon after it passes the House.

To help, we need immediate calls and letters to your US Senators, particularly Diane Feinstein of California and Bennett Johnston of Louisiana. Their address is US Senate, Washington, DC 20510, phone (202) 224-3121. Insist on a full 44,000-acre Headwaters Forest Wilderness with all six ancient redwood groves protected. Tell them we'll cover the cost by swapping it for Hurwitz's failed Texas S&L debt, for which he owes the taxpayers $548 million. Just say, "Debt for nature and jail for Hurwitz."

For more info on Headwaters Forest, write to the Redwood Action Team (see directory, p. 39).

Desert Protection Passes Congressional Vote

BY CRAIG BENEVILLE

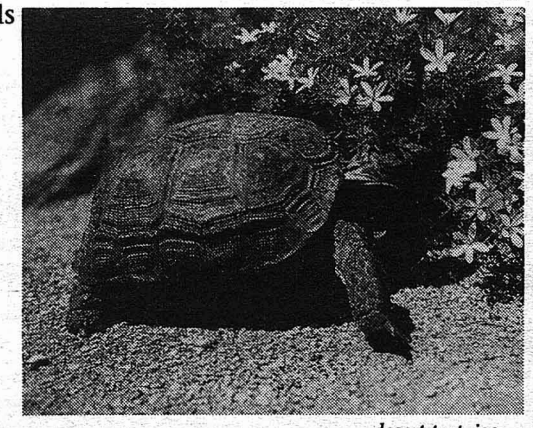
The California Desert Protection Act, the largest wilderness protection bill since the Alaska Lands Act of 1980, has passed both Senate and House of Representatives votes, and now needs only to go through conference committee to work out discrepancies in the House and Senate versions before being delivered to Clinton's desk for signature. The total acreage protected could total 9.4 million acres—creating the largest wilderness area in the Lower 48!

Opponents of the bill have now switched their tactics to defeat by filibuster. It is rumored that Senator Wallop (R-Wyoming) is planning on objecting to nominations of a conference committee, which means the Senate then has to go to a full vote to decide the issue. It takes 60 votes to pass, and the Senate may be unwilling to spend the time required to take the vote.

The region to be protected includes 90 mountain ranges, 700-foot sand dunes, ancient Indian petroglyphs, huge Joshua tree forests, the only known dinosaur tracks in California, and over 2,000 species of plants and wildlife. Of these resident species, 157 are considered rare, threatened, sensitive or endangered, including the desert bighorn sheep, desert tortoise, chuckwalla lizard, kangaroo rat and creosote rings. The creosote rings, including "King Clone" in the east Mojave, are perhaps the Earth's oldest living organisms (genotypically at least). The area also contains important geological and archeological sites dating back to 9000 B.C.

The Senate bill creates three new National Parks and over 70 wilderness areas, totaling 7.75 million acres. Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Monuments would be expanded and turned into National Parks, and the East Mojave National Scenic Area would become Mojave National Park. The House version, as an NRA compromise, designates the East Mojave as a preserve, allowing hunting to continue. Although hunting in the Mojave is poor, the NRA pushed for the preserve status because it "merely want[ed] to make a point."

Passage of the bill is a victory for desert protection, although significant compromises have been incorporated into the legislation. Among these is a provision in both bills that allows current grazing permit holders to continue grazing in perpetuity within the new National Parks. Since livestock grazing is perhaps the primary cause of ecological degradation in the desert region, this last-minute amendment is an outrage and contrary to the preservation mission the National Park Service supposedly represents. (The bills originally phased out grazing over the next 25 years—which in itself was bad enough.)



desert tortoise

The off-road vehicle lobby also had its impact on the legislation. More than 50 wilderness boundary adjustments were made to appease ORVers, and the entire Algodones Dunes wilderness area was deleted. The Senate version still has 10-12 ORV routes within "protected" areas.

The Senate version also leaves a huge hole in the middle of Mojave NP, a 276,000 acre area called the Lanfair Valley, which contains some of the Mojave's most biologically valuable sites. The House version removes only 40,000 acres of this area from the park, still unacceptable but better by far.

The military and mining interests continue to maintain their seemingly omnipresent grip on desert lands. Low-level military overflights are exempted from the legislation, and the armed forces will be allowed to continue using established flight paths over the desert, including wilderness areas. Continued use of the China Lake Naval Weapons Center and Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range is also preserved by the legislation. Active mining claims will be summarily deleted from the National Park areas. The House version contains the deletion of 28,200 acres from protection in the Mojave area in order to exclude undeveloped mining claims of the Viceroy mining company. (Viceroy's active mining claims were already excluded.)

National Park status, while providing protection from commercial interests, brings its own set of problems, and will surely bring impacts to the desert ecosystems. The spectre of industrial tourism is already present in the Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Monuments and will soon appear in the east Mojave area. It must be confronted in all three places. The Mojave area alone is expected to receive over one million visitors a year—visitors who will demand roads for their Winnebagos and air-conditioned visitor centers. Joshua Tree National Monument is already suffering from the crowds, sport climbers and mountain bikers demanding increased access to backcountry sections of the park.

Assuming the politicians pass the legislation, it is not yet time to sit on our laurels: the desert will continue to be under attack, and there are still those damn cows out there. All in all, though, this is the most significant piece of legislation to come out of Washington in a long, long time, and it deserves our support. Write your Senators now and ask them to support a vote to appoint a conference committee and get the Desert Bill (S 21) passed this year.

Fish and Wildlife Service Versus Cactus Wrens
And the Cactus Wren Loses...

BY DAVID HOGAN

The month of July brought partial legal victory to four imperiled species inhabiting the remaining southern California wildlands. After two long years of legal maneuverings, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) agreed in a legal settlement with the Southwest Center for Biological Diversity to issue drastically overdue 12-month Endangered Species Act findings for the Laguna Mountains skipper butterfly, the Cuyamaca Lake downingia, and the San Diego fairy shrimp...all by August 1st. An agreement was made with FWS that a 12 month finding for the coastal cactus wren would be issued by September 16. Of these species, the San Diego fairy shrimp and the coastal cactus wren will have the greatest impact on efforts to preserve remnant patches of coastal sage scrub and vernal pool habitat.

Under the Endangered Species Act listing process, any citizen may petition the FWS to list a species as threatened or endangered. Within one year of the receipt of a petition, the FWS must determine whether the petitioned action is warranted, warranted but precluded, or not warranted. If the listing of a species is found to be warranted, the FWS must then propose the species for protection as threatened or endangered. Once a species is proposed, FWS has one year to finalize the listing. In the case of the coastal cactus wren, a petition was submitted by the San Diego Biodiversity Project requesting emergency endangered status for the species in September of 1990. A petition was submitted for the California gnatcatcher on the same day. In the course of the next two years, the cactus wren was virtually ignored while during the same time the California gnatcatcher caught the attention of more than just a few government officials and developers alike.

On September 2nd, the FWS issued a bizarre rule rejecting the San Diego Biodiversity Project cactus wren petition on the grounds that the coastal cactus wren was not a valid subspecies or population.

Background

The coastal southern California population of the cactus wren is unique in its dependence on a very specialized, very limited habitat type: cholla or prickly-pear cactus patches found within coastal sage scrub. Cactus wrens have, over the millennium, adapted to the precarious existence of living in and around vegetation which is best known for its repelling affect on most wildlife species. For the wren, however, the patches of prickly-pear and cholla along the southern California coastline offer nesting protection from predators, and an abundant food supply in the form of cactus fruits. Their nest is woodrat-like in that, from a distance, it appears simply to be a pile of twigs nestled in the heart of the cactus patch. The call of the cactus wren is distinctive. A ratchety, rapidly repeated cough best describes their communications. While most cactus wrens live (or lived) below 450ft in elevation and are limited in distribution by the presence of cactus patches, fire, and unusual soil type, a few populations are known from above 1000 ft.

The taxonomy of cactus wrens inhabiting the southern California coastline are a conservationist's worst nightmare. Conservative taxonomists claim that coastal populations are virtually identical to populations found throughout the desert southwest and label all simply as "cactus wrens"

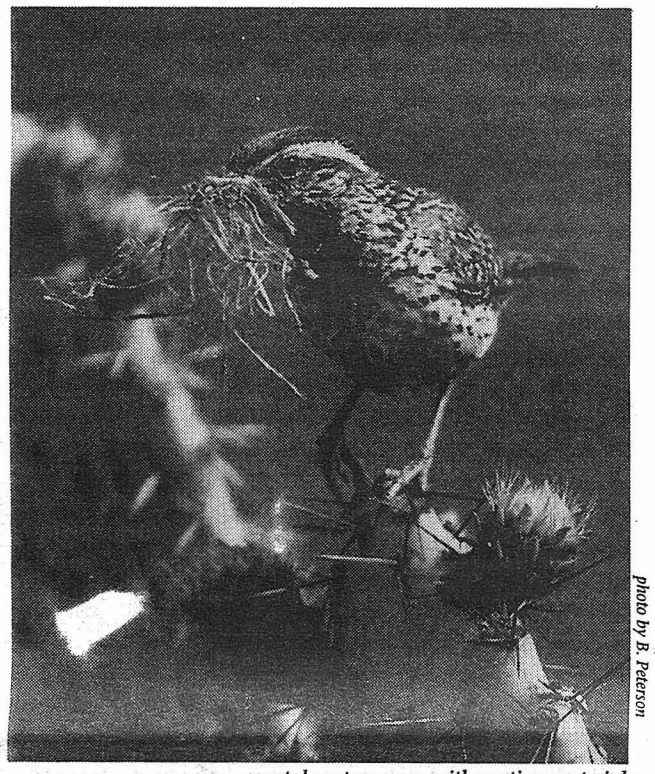


photo by B. Peterson

coastal cactus wren, with nesting material

(*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus couesi*). On the other hand, *pre*servative taxonomists argue that six different subspecies exist in southwestern north America, all of which are easily differentiated by plumage coloration, habits, and habitat requirements. The taxonomists that actually give a damn about preservation of species variety make a good case regarding the distinctiveness of coastal southern California cactus wrens.

Up to very recent times, a connection existed through the San Gorgonio Pass (near Palm Springs) between the coastal cactus wren populations and those found throughout eastern California, Arizona, and northern mainland Mexico. Because of this narrow connection, cactus wrens found throughout the coastal sage scrub of the Los Angeles basin show little differentiation from those found in California's deserts, except (superficially) in habitat preference. Analysis of cactus wrens found further south in Orange County, San Diego County and Northern Baja California Norte, however, indicates evolution of a subspecies has occurred through geographic isolation from the larger desert populations. No connection exists between populations in northern coastal Baja, eastern Baja, or southern Baja.

Taxonomy and Politics

A description of this subspecies, the San Diego cactus wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus sandiegensis*), was published in 1990, and soon after became the basis of the original endangered species petition. The description of the San Diego cactus wren, however, was rejected by the American Ornithologist's Union, and as a result, the FWS indicated in their 90-day petition finding that they would process the petition as a request to list the coastal population of the southwest-wide ranging cactus wren as endangered. Under the Endangered Species Act, the FWS has the authority to list imperiled populations of species that are only suffering from declines in portions of their range. Although the listing of the Sand Diego cactus wren would have been virtually assured due to extremely low numbers (less than five-hundred pairs), an excellent case can be made that the entire southern California coastal population of the cactus wren deserves protection due to complete isolation and low numbers (less than 1500 pairs remain). Agribusiness and housing development have destroyed the narrow San Gorgonio Pass connection, thus strengthening our case that the coastal population must be protected in its entirety. The FWS feels otherwise, however, as indicated by their September 2nd ruling.

Despite objections from concerned ornithologists, the FWS maintains in their ruling that the San Diego cactus wren is not a distinct subspecies. No news to anyone. Further, FWS claims that the coastal southern California population of cactus wrens does not meet their population criteria, and thus does not deserve protection under the Endangered Species Act. In reality, the coastal cactus wren population meets all criteria and standards set by FWS for protection of isolated species' populations. By distorting facts with confusing taxonomic smoke and mirrors, the FWS has weaseled its way out of yet another economically unpopular Endangered Species Act listing. Meanwhile, projects such as the Foothill Tollroad in Orange County which propose massive impacts to cactus wren populations move forward. Stay tuned for further legal action.

Lawsuit Shuts Down Plan to Log Northern Goshawk Nesting Site on Mt Graham

BY KIERAN SUCKLING

Whenever I hear the words "ecosystem management" I cringe. In this case, Mike Borens, Coronado National Forest Supervisor, was in a huff. He just couldn't understand my objection to his exempting the Coronado from its own northern goshawk guidelines in order to cut down the only occupied nesting site on Mt. Graham. Accusing me of outmoded single species management, he explained that ecosystem management required that he cut down the old growth stand in order to create habitat for 32 RVs. It seems Borax's version of "ecosystem management" also supersedes any need for an Environmental Analysis since the campground from hell was issued under a Categorical Exclusion.

Forest Guardians, the Greater Gila Biodiversity Project and the Southwest Center for Biological Diversity sued him. Three hours later the Forest Service rescinded its decision to build the campground. Whaddya know.

Twilight Campground is a classic example of ego and momentum causing the Forest Service to go through with projects regardless of how obviously damaging they are. The project was excluded from Environmental Analysis in 1992, even though the campground was in a Mexican spotted owl core area and construction was to take place during the breeding season. In its Biological Evaluation (BE), the Coronado simply exempted itself from the Forest Service's own Mexican spotted owl guidelines. They rationalized the exemption by saying that logging the old growth and building a road with 32 spurs and 32 RV campsites would not "significantly" affect the stand. The owl was listed as threatened before the campground was built, however, and the Fish and Wildlife Service would not look kindly on the exemption. No problem. The district biologist, who is famous for moving all the Mexican spotted owl territories outside the Mt. Graham telescope site, issued an amendment to the BE and suddenly the core was no longer in the campground. No owl, no problem.

Then came the goshawks...

A pair of goshawks set up shop in the campground and began making babies. Now, it is illegal to cut trees in a goshawk nest stand. No problem. Enter district biologist one more time with amendment No. 2 to the BE. This time the Coronado exempted itself from the Forest Service's own goshawk guidelines. Charles Cartwright, the regional forester, called it an excellent opportunity to experiment with "adaptive management." Seems they wanted to see how goshawks adapt to death.

The Fish and Wildlife Service meanwhile was having a little trouble understanding what was going on. The original BE called the campground suitable Mexican spotted owl habitat, the amended BE called it capable Mexican spotted owl habitat, and the district ranger claimed no one had ever called it suitable habitat. When they visited the site, the Fish and Wildlife Service warned that the entire Pinaleno Range may only support three to five goshawks. Since the District was warned to get Fish and Wildlife Service's approval, a misleading message was passed up the line that they had indeed approved. When the high mucky mucks read our lawsuit and realized that the Fish and Wildlife Service did not approve and that the entire fiasco was passed off as a Categorical Exclusion, the plug was pulled on the project.

WISE ABUSERS ASSAULT THE ESA

BY DANIEL BARRON

While Endangered Species Act (ESA) re-authorization bills continue to languish in Congress, the wise abusers are pushing through private property "bill of rights" legislation to undermine the ESA and other environmental laws, and the Department of Interior continues its PR campaign of administrative changes designed to make the act more "user friendly." The ESA bills are unlikely to be voted on until 1995, but we cannot afford to ignore these other campaigns that could destroy any remaining chance to strengthen, or even avoid weakening, the best piece of eco-legislation we've got.

Congressman Billy Tauzin (D-Louisiana) is not only co-author of the industry-sponsored, ESA-gutting HR 1490, he is also proud author of an even more horrendous bill, HR 3875, the Private Property Owners' Bill of Rights. This bill, which currently has a scary 150 co-sponsors, would effectively require the federal government to compensate property owners for any law or regulation that reduces by at least 50% the maximum possible profit from their property. It doesn't take much imagination to see how such an act could shut down enforcement of major environmental laws. Taxpayers would ostensibly have to pay landowners not to develop, not to clearcut, not to stripmine, not to follow through on any ludicrously destructive plan they happen to think up that could conceivably fly and fill their coffers with big bucks. You thought the S&L bailout was expensive? Wait 'til this thing passes.

More likely, HR 3875 will not pass itself, but will scare many congressional reps into supporting ESA-weakening bills like HR 1490 as a "compromise." So long as we allow the wise abuse thugs to hold the offensive, we can kiss an effective ESA goodbye. The best thing going congressionally for our side are a bunch of conservation amendments (con ams) that the DC enviros are pushing in the Senate. These con ams would—believe it or not—actually strengthen the ESA, although as usual they don't go far enough. Support for the con ams is building slowly, and we need to light a fire under their butt by voicing support for a much stronger revision, as suggested by Boris Garoasat (see his article in Brigid '94).

Meanwhile, Interior Secretary Bruce "Greenwashing" Babbitt is running around telling everyone how the Southern California NCCP group-therapy, voluntary-compliance program is the model for future endangered species conflict resolution. The gist of the program is this: bring together all the concerned parties—developers, chambers of commerce, local, state and federal agencies, so-called enviros—and pretend you can get everyone to reach consensus on a recovery plan for the ecosystem that "minimizes social and economic impacts." Of course, in practice the NCCP (Natural Communities Conservation Planning) process is a dismal failure. Notice the toll roads under construction in Orange County in gnatcatcher habitat, complete with exemptions from US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), while the toll-road agencies throw a few hundred grand into the NCCP process to keep the group therapy sessions on track. Conflict of interest? Naw...

Babbitt's Interior is also issuing monthly press releases about how they're "streamlining" the ESA to make it more abuser friendly. Nowhere in their PR do they talk about increasing protection for species other than humans. The rhetoric is all about "expediting the process," (let's not keep the developers waiting), "providing greater predictability for the public," (corporations shouldn't have to worry about losing a project under construction in critical habitat), "avoiding crisis management through cooperative approaches," (there *is* a crisis, Bruce, and we *won't* cooperate.) The latest move by Interior, possibly the worst yet, is to guarantee developers that once a Habitat Conservation Plan (better known as Habitat Destruction Plan) is approved, no further habitat need be set aside, regardless of whether a species under the plan continues to decline or new information on habitat needs is discovered. HCPs will become like legal contracts; once signed, no modifications that could help save a species will be allowed.

For years Earth First!ers have been talking about taking the offensive for a stronger ESA. If ever there were a time to do so, now is it. Let's give Bruce baby a piece of our minds. Plan a demo, set up an info table, and get everyone you can to write Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of Interior, Department of Interior, Washington, DC 20240. Better yet, devise some creative direct action aimed directly at Babbitt. We need to put him on the defensive and hound him like we've hounded Charlie Hurwitz, with a vengeance.

Tell your Senators (US Senate, Washington, DC 20510) that the USFWS are a bunch of wimps who ought to be arresting toll road builders, condo developers and timber tycoons. Let them know that while the conservation amendments to S 921 (the companion bill to enviro-sponsored HR 2043) are a step in the right direction, we really want a much stronger ESA bill. Find out how your congressional reps stand on the Tauzin bill-from-hell, HR 3875, the Private Property Bill of Destruction. If they don't actively oppose the bill, demonstrate in front of their offices, and keep up the pressure. Also protest at your nearest USFWS office and let them know how you feel about their abuser-friendly changes to ESA enforcement. Let's all turn up the heat on those who would gut the ESA, and keep speaking out loud and clear for the recovery of all species!

For up to date info on the status of ESA bills and related DC happenings, contact the Endangered Species Coalition, 666 Pennsylvania Ave SE, Washington, DC 20002, (202) 547-9009, fax (202) 547-9022.

Wolverine Petitioned for Listing

On August 3, the Biodiversity Legal Foundation, a Boulder, Colorado based environmental group, petitioned the US Fish and Wildlife Service to list the wolverine as an endangered species in the lower 48 contiguous states. The Foundation contends that the species is biologically endangered in the majority of its known historic range due to dangerously low population levels, continued habitat destruction, restricted range, trapping, and inadequate government programs. All of these factors make the wolverine vulnerable to extinction.

The primarily nocturnal wolverine is the largest member of the terrestrial weasel group and an effective scavenging predator of the cool, coniferous forests of North America. It possesses a compact and strongly built body with heavy muscles and has the appearance of a small bear cub with a bushy tail. Due to its power and large feet, it is able to run faster than its prey across soft snow and hunt other animals much larger than itself, such as small deer. It remains active throughout the year, even during the most severe winter weather.

The wolverine's historic range extended from Alaska and northern Canada along the Rocky Mountains to Arizona and New Mexico. Today, its range in the lower US is severely restricted in the Northern Rockies and parts of the Northwest. It now teeters on the threshold of extinction in the Southern Rockies and the species has not shown an acceptable level of recovery even in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Due to its vast expanses of undisturbed National Park and Wilderness lands, the Glacier/Bob Marshall Ecosystem adjacent to Canada in northwest Montana may be one of the few areas that are at or near historic wolverine densities.

The wolverine was historically hunted for its thick fur, which was used for trimming and lining, but it currently has a relatively low value as a fur bearer. It was extensively persecuted for alleged depredations on deer and livestock and for raiding baited traps. The species continues to be threatened by trapping, poisoning activities (even for other species), and by habitat degradation from logging, mining, road construction and intense human recreational activities.

As a low-density species, the wolverine's relatively low reproductive rate, high juvenile mortality, and poor or irregular breeding success makes the wolverine more vulnerable to regional extinction and habitat disturbance.

Surprisingly, this rare mammal continues to be legally trapped in Montana, where the pelts are used primarily as trophy mounts or for parka trim. Additionally, Montana allows a legal trapping season on the lynx and fisher, two species also in serious decline. The Biodiversity Legal Foundation has called for an immediate halt to this practice. The few areas with healthy populations should be used as reservoirs for the reintroduction and augmentation of wolverines in other areas.

The failure of state wildlife agencies throughout the Rockies to adequately curtail the use of leg-hold traps has resulted in the needless injury of wolverines—injuries that often lead to death. It is not unusual for wildlife biologists to encounter wolverines with missing toes and broken teeth. "All leg-hold bait trapping must be eliminated in wolverine recovery areas," says Jasper Carlton, Director of the Foundation.

The increasing use of snowmobiles and an ever-expanding network of US Forest Service roads in the back country have also contributed to habitat disturbance and ease of access for trappers.

Wilderness and remote, roadless country where human activity is limited appears essential to healthy wolverine populations. Man is the only significant predator on wolverines. The American public is beginning to understand that carnivores, such as wolves, wolverines and lynx, fill an important ecological role and are fascinating creatures that have an intrinsic right to exist in the forest ecosystems of this country.

The listing of the wolverine on the federal Endangered Species list will not only give the species and its wild habitat a chance for long-term recovery but may also help to establish a reversal in the government's antiquated predator policies. It is essential that state and federal agencies now work cooperatively to restore the wolverine, particularly on large tracts of undisturbed public land.

On April 23, BLF also petitioned US Fish and Wildlife for listing of the lynx under the ESA in the lower 48 states—a species whose range overlaps much of that of the wolverine. The plight of both the lynx and wolverine is vivid evidence that most of the western United States has been heavily logged and over-developed and of the need for more effective carnivore conservation programs.

Wolverine and lynx recovery efforts, in concert with needed conservation measures for other species such as the wolf, grizzly bear, fisher, and northern goshawk, represent a moral obligation and biological imperative to protect not only single species, but the complex wild forest ecosystems of which they are a part.

US Fish and Wildlife has 90 days in which to issue a preliminary finding as to the merit of the petition.

Dioxin Incinerator Rushes Towards Completion

Legal Liability and Governor Traded Like a Ton of Tripe

BY STEVE TAYLOR, BIG RIVER EARTH FIRST!

Times Beach, once a river community that boasted 14 taverns and a single church, is now a ghost town. Driving past the proposed incinerator site, there is nothing to indicate that Times Beach ever existed. It no longer appears on area maps or street signs. Like dozens of other Missouri communities, Times Beach was sprayed with dioxin-laden waste oil in the early seventies. Its residents were later compensated, relocated and then forgotten.

"Liability is what they're scared of," stated Marilyn Leistner in a recent interview. Leistner is the former mayor of Times Beach. "I know of many former neighbors and friends now suffering from cancers and other health effects directly related to dioxin. There has been no real follow-up on our health by the state of Missouri or any agency," said Leistner.

In the early 1980s, as the Times Beach story unfolded to the nation, a small independent waste hauler named Russell Bliss was scapegoated for the entire dioxin catastrophe, which still plagues 27 Superfund sites in Missouri. Bliss was subcontracted by Independent Petrochemical Corp. (IPC). His job was to dispose of residues that IPC had been contracted to remove from Hoffman-Taff's holding

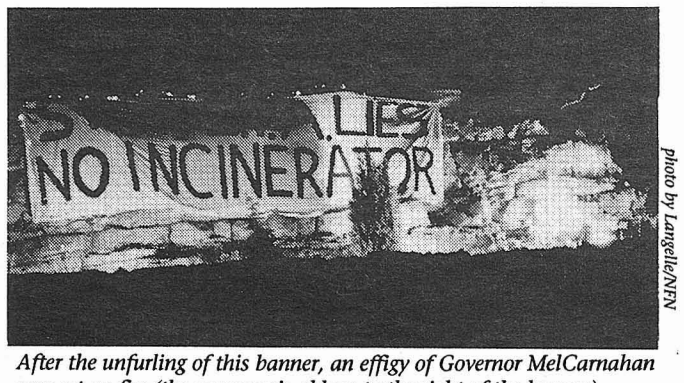


photo by Langelle/NFN

After the unfurling of this banner, an effigy of Governor MelCarnahan was set on fire (the governor is ablaze to the right of the banner)

tanks at their herbicide plant in Verona. Bliss mixed the dioxin with waste oil and sprayed it on horse arenas, truck lots, trailer parks and the town of Times Beach during 1971-1973.

The Verona plant is where Hoffman-Taff produced Agent Orange beginning in 1969. Agent Orange was used to defoliate the rebel-held forests of southern Vietnam. The Air Force deforestation campaign was code-named "Operation Ranch Hand." Its motto was "Only we can prevent forests."

It has been established that as early as November 1972 , then-Attorney General of Missouri, John Danforth, knew of the spraying. Danforth's office had received a deposition by Bliss of all the sites he had sprayed with the waste oil. The deposition was taken in St. Charles County during a state investigation of the mysterious death of 36 horses and a variety of wildlife at a horse ranch.

According to a congressional report by the Office of Technology Assessment, "in 1974 the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) identified dioxin as the toxic substance in Missouri waste oil." It wasn't until 1982, eight years later, that the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) allegedly "discovered dioxin levels up to 1,200 parts per billion in Times Beach."

On November 10th, 1982, the residents of Times Beach were finally informed that the oil sprayed on their streets contained dioxin. This was at least ten years after Danforth's office had been informed of the Bliss connection. Neither Danforth, nor any State or Federal agency thus far has admitted that their silence amounts to complicity in the dioxin debacle of Missouri, nor do they accept any liability for their negligence.

Liability is something Syntex Agribusiness was willing to purchase when they bought Hoffman-Taff and their Verona herbicide plant. Syntex is a large pharmaceutical company now responsible for

continued on page 27

Highlights, Lowlights, Ozark Summer '94!

BY PINK PLANARIANS EF!

Ozark Summer '94! is over but the battle for the Ozarks has just begun. Ozark Summer attempted to raise awareness about threats to the Ozark bioregion and halt those threats by combining direct action with community service, education and scientific research.

The summer kicked off with a victory. An action was planned to stop a 100 mile on- and off-road motorcycle ride *through* the Mark Twain National Forest that would illegally cross several streams. For three days we faced constant surveillance at our campsite by Freddie cops and county deputies who refused all offers to play volleyball. On the day of the ride we announced that we'd be at three of the routed stream crossings, one of which was just yards from a beaver dam. We even asked the Freddies the best way to get there. We waited and waited but the drone of the flatulent beasts never got quite loud enough. The route was changed! Unfortunately, another stream was crossed, but Sierra Club activists were there to document the violation for possible future lawsuits.

Another successful action was a demonstration at the capitol in Jefferson City to protest lead mining. It was well covered by the media and raised awareness of the extremely high lead content in some Ozark streams. We'd like to thank the Direct Action Fund for helping to make the demo a success.

Ironically, it was the commun[illegible]y service aspect of our campaign that raised the most opposition. It seemed to scare the hell out of the industry-funded wi$e u$e movement in southern Missouri. The greedheads were afraid that our message of ecology, sustainability, and concern for the local communities would undercut their pseudo-concerned propaganda. With lots of money and no morals to dissuade them, they were successful in stopping three of our projects.

It did not occur to us that community service plans should be kept secret, but our open campaign enabled People for the West! (Custer, Manifest Destiny, etc.) to find out where we were headed next without using up all their precious wisdom. A plot to clean up flood damage in Ellington and plant trees on flood-prone hillsides was first to fall to the proverbial ax. Forest Service complicity in this cancellation is suspected; Freddies reportedly attended a town meeting which revoked our invitation to camp in the town park and share a welcome dinner with residents.

Another project was work on an outdoor classroom in Viburnum, where a lead mining facility is owned by Doe Run. Doe Run has contributed at least $40,000 to the local People For the West! (PFW!?) chapters. A week before our scheduled arrival we tried to set up a debate with PFW! and naively informed them about our plans. Within an hour the mayor of Viburnum, who had set up the project, canceled it whining that we never admitted our intention to "destroy the community." I guess outdoor classrooms are more subversive than we surmised.

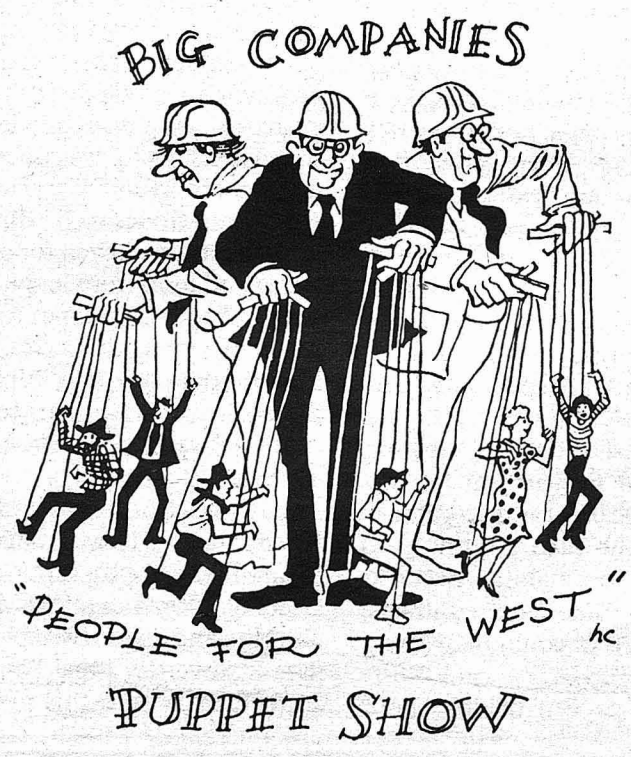
A last-minute third attempt was to create environmental education curricula at a community center in Salem. The morning we arrived their employees told us we had been canceled—again. We could only get vague reasons, like "insurance," as to why anyone else could walk off the street and volunteer, while we could not.

We then decided to use the period we had planned for community service to expose the yellow bellied wise users—who refused to debate us—and their dogged attempts to keep us from doing anything the public could perceive as "good work." Not all our work was blocked, however. Later projects such as cleanups of the Jack's Fork and Eleven Point rivers and maintenance of the Ozark Trail were successful.

Employees of the US Forest Service for whom we did some work (yes, the Freddies) told us that the greedheads tried like mad to talk them out of letting us do the work. Luckily the Eleven Point District was desperate enough for help to loan even EF!ers tools and canoes. Two of their employees were also kind enough to attend a potluck dinner with us. They stayed friendly even when we grilled them about the rampant cutting and the absurd and illegal exploratory mining in the district. When asked what repercussions there were for the sloppy skidding jobs we had seen, the forester replied in all earnestness that there was nothing to worry about—the trees that were damaged during selective cutting would later be marked and cut in a salvage sale. "Say what?" we spluttered. But, in the cordial spirit of the evening we held ourselves back and checked our rage with accounts of the district's imminent budget cuts.

Later we were pleased to hear that District Ranger Art Wirtz, who approved the drilling, was transferred and that an idiotic proposed timber sale abutting the Eleven Point National Wild and Scenic River was withdrawn after an appeal by Heartwood and the local Sierra Club chapter. But with the good news came some bad. We also learned that the Freddies were pushing a plan to allow Placer Dome to test drill for gold and other minerals in the Potosi-Fredericktown and Salem Districts, already devastated by mining.

All who attended Ozark Summer now have firsthand knowledge of the sick, twisted bureaucracy of the USFS and will not allow it to continue with business as usual. The renewed spirit of resistance in the Ozarks was captured by former Forest Supervisor Eric Morse, who was forced to retire after public outrage quashed a proposal to construct 308 new miles of ATV trails. Morse said, "The Mark Twain is in the crosshairs of extreme environmentalists." Yeah, you were the first to go down, No re-Morse, but you won't be the last.



Keep 'em "in the crosshairs." Send letters of outrage concerning the Placer Dome test drilling to: Paul Johnson, Potosi-Fredericktown District, Route 2, Box 175, Fredericktown, MO 63645. Mention Placer Dome's suspended operation in Montana and current suit over a Nevada operation. Remind them that Doe Run and Asarco, currently mining in the Mark Twain, are the top two polluters in the state. Request an EIS that includes the impact of roads and up to 30 drill sites.

Austin Burns

BY AUSTIN EF!

Meet the New Texas... same as the Old Texas... will we be fooled again?

Perhaps some folks actually believed it when Governor Ann Richards was saying things like, "The New Texas Prosperity will not be built on glitter or greed, but... on what's best for our families and our environment. We must solicit industry that is interested in being our partners in a green future. Not just the green of greenbacks, but the green of a clean Earth." Of course, there were those who cynically pointed out in Richard's first race for governor that her business partner and major campaign contributor, Gary Bradley was busily converting green Earth over the Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer into Greenbacks to stick into his pockets. But what could be worse than Clayton "Relax and Enjoy It" Williams?

Once upon a time, Richards told us "No more will hazardous waste facilities be rammed through the permit process over the objections of local communities" Probably not many folks would have then expected the nightmares endured by the communities of Channelview or Sierra Blanca.

In Channelview, citizens have been fighting a toxic waste incinerator since Richards was first campaigning for governor. Richards promised that she would fight the incinerator, and in turn, Channelview citizens supported her campaign. Nevertheless, her appointees to the Texas Water Commission approved it. Richards hid behind the Commission, claiming that she had no control over its decisions. No doubt the citizens of Channelview feel they were the victims of false advertising.

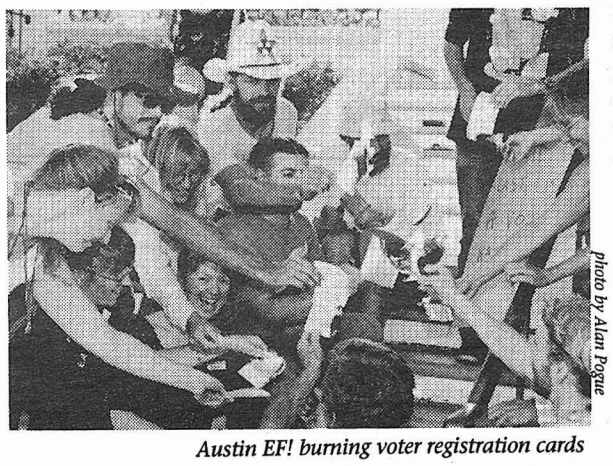


photo by Alan Pogue

Austin EF! burning voter registration cards

Perhaps the most grievous environmental assault carried out by the Richards administration is the nuclear waste dump she has been promoting for Sierra Blanca. Already home to a dump for toxic sewage from New York City, Sierra Blanca is now Ann Richard's targeted final resting place for decommissioned nuclear plant parts from Vermont and New Hampshire.

Richards did veto a bill passed by the 1993 Texas legislature that would have crippled the SOS ordinance, a citizen's initiative which limits pollution and development in watersheds that contribute to our beloved Barton Springs. Yes, but it could be argued that her veto was more a case of crafty showmanship than real love of Barton Springs. Instead of saying, "Absolutely not!" and vetoing the bill immediately, Richards announced that she had already made up her mind, but we would have to wait a couple of weeks to see what she would do with the bill, setting off a cliffhanger circus of media speculation. When she did finally veto, relieved environmentalists acted like it was the second coming.

It was George Bush Jr., Richard's rival for governor in this year's race, who flushed out Richards true level of commitment to Barton Springs. With just a flourish of criticism, Bush got Richards to withdraw her support for federal "Outstanding Natural Resource Waters" designation for the Barton Springs Aquifer and its outstanding watersheds. This designation would have protected the portions of the aquifer that Austin citizens were not able to protect under the SOS ordinance. It appears that Richards is currying support from newly formed radical property rights groups, because she blamed her flip flop on the federal government's recent announcement of its intent to designate critical habitat designation to the endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler, a bird despised by the property rights advocates.

So what is an environmental voter to do? Of course, everyone will say that Bush will be worse. But to vote for Bush would be rewarding Richards for poisoning the people of places like Channelview and Sierra Blanca. At some point we have to stop acting out of fear. It will take a lot of courage to clean up Texas and to say no to the developers who want to run amok in Hill County. Recently a group of environmentalists led by Earth First! activists burned their voter's registration cards in protest of this choice of "the evil of two lessors." This was not an act of apathy. It was a declaration that while politicians may not have the courage to protect clean water, endangered species, or the health of citizens they supposedly represent, WE DO! It's up to us, folks.

Stop Herbicide Poisoning of Eastern Oregon

BY BLUE MTNS. BIODIVERSITY PROJECT

While many of us thought the use of herbicides on public lands had been banned in Oregon, apparently the chemical companies and federal agencies have just been waiting for public attention to be diverted from the herbicide issue. Now they're back with plans to use highly toxic and persistently contaminating herbicides to control "noxious" weeds (thistles and other undesired plants—usually exotic invaders) despite the availability of several safer methods of "noxious" weed eradication and control.

In eastern Oregon, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is planning to use the herbicides Picloram, 2,4-D, Dicamba and Glyphosphate on 1,500 to 2,014 acres per year over a seven year period to control "noxious" weeds. This acreage comprises one-third to one-half the of BLM planning area, demonstrating that herbicide use is being prioritized for use over other methods, including prevention, rather than being reserved for last resort scenarios for weeds difficult to control by other methods. There is no mention in the Environmental Assessment (EA) that domestic livestock grazing increases the distribution of "noxious" weeds and creates the conditions for their growth (through removal of native vegetation from soils and riparian areas, trampling that creates erosion, etc.). Nor is there any alternative in the EA providing for the removal of cattle from the planning area to prevent these impacts.

The herbicide use is planned for some native "undesirable weeds" as well as for the exotics that do not belong in the area. Yet the native plants that would be weakened or eradicated are part of the very biodiversity that the BLM professes to be interested in protecting through their weed control program. The BLM is audacious enough to say that they are protecting public health by eliminating such naturally poisonous plants as water hemlock. Yet, which hurts and kills more people, animals and ecosystems—water hemlock or herbicides? Further, the herbicides planned for use are non-selective, meaning that they will damage or kill most broad-leafed plants in the vicinity. Plant diversity is the basis for almost all animal diversity, which depends either directly on plants for food or shelter (or cooling of water temperatures, as with fish) or indirectly for support of plant-dependent prey. To impair plant diversity with herbicides is the equivalent of destroying plankton, the basis of the ocean food chain, with ozone depletion—ultimately it is suicidal.

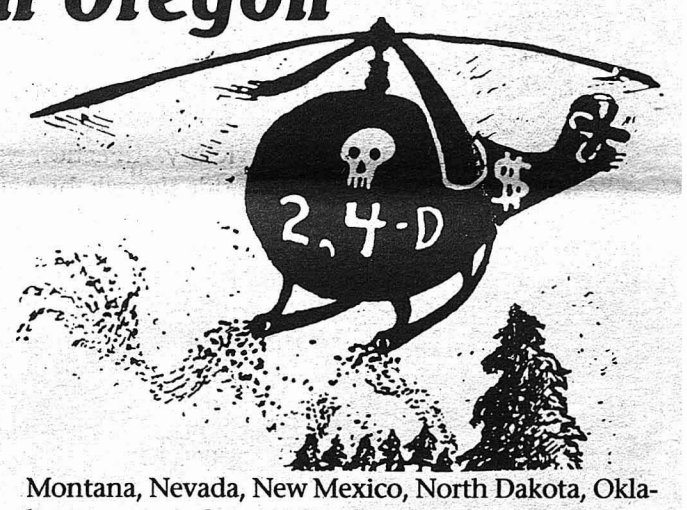
Although the BLM reassures the public that most herbicide use would be spot-spraying with hand-held devices along roadsides and would therefore have a controllable, selective effect, this does not address the herbicides' potential for leaching through soils or escaping the site via surface runoff or animals—who, with some of these chemicals, may spread still lethal residues through their urine and manure off site after ingestion of contaminated plants.

Chemicals leaching through soils can contaminate groundwater and the water table—a pervasive toxicity that would be difficult or impossible to remedy. Picloram and Dicamba are both known to leach readily through soils and have been detected as widespread groundwater (and well-water) contaminants.

The BLM plan also allows for aerial spraying. 2,4-D has been documented to drift up to 50 miles from application sites, and repeatedly has been associated with increased rates of non-Hodgkins Lymphoma (a cancer) in 2,4-D applicators. When sprayed from the air, herbicides can drift off-site under a variety of conditions, including temperature inversions, precipitation and winds over 5 mph. Drift can contain uncontrolled, varying concentrations of the chemicals involved. These chemicals are often combinations of two or more toxic ingredients, each with their own effects as well as the potential generation of synergistic effects. Drift concentrations can be high enough to cause long-term health problems and contamination of drinking water sources and food crops—especially with such persistent toxins as 2,4-D.

The BLM plan is based on an EA that leaves out the site-specific analysis required by the National Environmental Policy Act, including failure to survey for sensitive plants and animals before making the decision to implement the "Integrated Weed Management" project. We also found this EA to violate the National Forest Management Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Clean Water Act. Instead of site-specific analysis of the expected impacts from these particular plans to specific people, animal species, plant species, waterways, soils, etc., the BLM "tiers" the EA to very out-dated and general programmatic Final Environmental Impact Statements (FEISs) written as long ago as 1985.

The scariest thing about this tiering process is that the programmatic FEIS documents pertain to the Northwest as a whole, and in the case of the 1991 FEIS, to thirteen western states—Arizona, Colorado, Idaho,



Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, eastern Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. This means that if you live in any of these states, you and your local ecosystem are subject to the same abuse using the same flawed, outdated, too-general analysis that we are having to fight in eastern Oregon.

Let the chemical corporations and the federal agencies know that we won't let them poison our land, our kids, our animals, the wildlife, our future! Safer alternatives to control noxious weeds that the BLM itself plans to use (and which could totally replace their use of toxic chemicals) include: cultural (prevention) measures, manual removal, mechanical removal, biological control agents (including grazing by goats or sheep) and prescribed fire. These methods also create more jobs.

To protest current herbicide plans for eastern Oregon, write or call the following:

US Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary, Interior Board of Land Appeals, 4015 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA 22203; (703) 235-3750.

Write or call: James Hancock, District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, PO Box 550, (185 E. 4th St.), Prineville, OR 97754; (503) 447-4115.

Don Lawton, Regional Solicitator, US Department of the Interior, Lloyd 500 Building, Suite 607, 500 NE Multnomah St. Portland, OR 97232; (503) 231-2126.

The Umatilla National Forest is also considering using herbicides: Dave Herr, Umatilla National Forest, 2517 SW Hailey Ave, Pendleton, OR 97801; (503) 276-3811.

Copies to all would be great, otherwise concentrate on the Interior Board of Land Appeals.

For more info, contact the Blue Mtns. Biodiversity Project, HCR-82, Fossil, OR 97830.

A Bear for the Killing

On the west coast of Vancouver Island, British Columbia, based in the town of Tofino, at the edge of Clayoquot Sound, a group called Bear Watch went out on the water every day of hunting season this year to confront bear hunters and scare bears off beaches where they are easy prey.

In one week, they discovered a trophy killing and skinning of a male black bear at Bulson Creek, and then confronted the hunter at the Fourth Street boat ramp. They retrieved the bear's carcass the next day and made it the focus of a protest staged at the Tofino welcome sign at Village Green. Later in the week they traveled to Victoria to display the stinking carcass, and then held a quiet funeral ceremony for the bear back at the Sound.

Shortly after, the same hunter made another attempt to shoot a bear near Bulson Creek. This led to a boat ramming, and another confrontation at the crab dock. Charges and counter charges were investigated by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and a wildlife officer.

Below the sign which welcomes visitors to the town of Tofino, Bear Watch hung the carcass for all to see. As the crowd chanted "No more trophy kills," people walking by covered their eyes.

"This bear is approximately four years old," Sharon Whalen, one of the organizers of the protest, told the crowd. "He lived in a meadow on the brink of a huge clearcut. Where the hell was he supposed to go? They have nowhere to go... And we wonder why they are in our backyards."

"For $33 you can kill two bears every [hunting] season in BC," said Julie Draper, a long time activist. "This is *legal*. This has to stop."

In Tofino, no one visibly supported the trophy hunting. Even a group of Chinese tourists were ashamed. "This is no good for people," one said. "We appreciate nature. We just came to watch." He said he was ashamed because "this is my government that lets it happen." In China, among other Asian countries, bear gall bladders sell for as high as $300 an ounce.

This article was excerpted from The Sound, *Box 135, Tofino, BC, V0R 2Z0. To help stop bear hunting write to* The Sound, *or to the* EF! Journal *for a copy of our Bear Tabloid, which appeared in Eostar '94.*

Mt Rogers Highway?

BY JIM FLYNN

The US Forest Service has begun the scoping process for an environmental assessment on the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) decision to reroute Route 58 through the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area. The route would parallel and cross the Appalachian Trail, destroy the popular Hurricane Campground area, parallel Comers Creek, and have a detrimental effect on numerous threatened and endangered species.

Why would the shepherds of our public land do such a thing? To address alternatives that avoid impacting the National Recreation Area and other environmental problems. (Could the USFS actually be doing something right?)

Why would the VDOT want to spend $160 million of taxpayers money to push a road through a rugged, environmentally sensitive area? Why, to bolster economic development, of course. This project is meant to improve economic conditions in southern and southwestern Virginia. You have to spend money to make money, they say.

Environmentalists in Virginia are fighting this eco-catastrophe "tooth and nail." Other, shorter routes are readily available and, heck, don't we have enough roads already?

For a copy of the scoping notice or to make comments, contact Tom Poulin or Ken Landgraf, Jefferson National Forest, 5162 Valleypointe Parkway, Roanoke, VA 24019-3050, (703) 265-6054.

Comments will be accepted until October 30.

Send letters of dis-approval to: the Commissioner, Commonwealth of Virginia, VDOT, 1401 E. Broad, Richmond, VA 23219.

For more information, contact the Mountain Heritage Alliance, POB 361, Marion, VA 24354; or EF!er Bob Mueller, Rt. 1, Box 250, Staunton, VA 24401, (703) 885-6983.

Bear Baiting Ban Held

BY JIM FLYNN

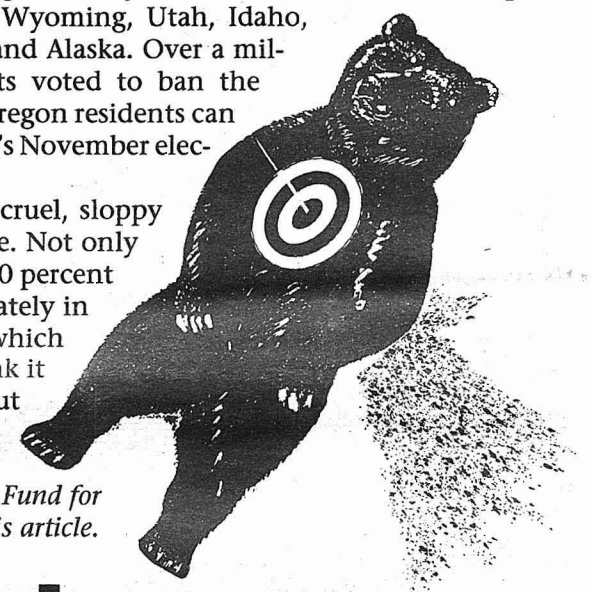
When the Forest Service decided to lift the ban on bear baiting last spring, they opened a door to animal rights and conservation groups who promptly slammed it in their face. The Fund for Animals, Friends of the Bow and others took the Freddies to court and demanded that a decision to turn responsibility for bait management to state game and fish agencies, which would allow baiting to continue, be reversed. The result was a federal court ruling which banned the use of bait stations in Wyoming until the Forest Service developed a national policy to regulate baiting. When they developed an "Interim Plan" (business as usual), the federal court upheld the baiting ban.

Bear baiting is the practice of putting odiferous foods in the forest to lure bears so they can be shot at close range. Baits of choice include animal parts and carcasses, rancid bacon grease, jelly donuts, etc. (Sounds like a typical American breakfast, don't it?) For example, a recent bait station in the Bridger-Teton National Forest was described by the district ranger as, "one-third of a horse stuffed in a barrel with the horse's head tied to a tree."

Hunting guides are the most outspoken proponents of the practice. An average scenario includes a guide who is in contact with an out-of-state hunter, who flies in after the bait station has been set up and a bear (or bears) becomes habituated to the bait.

Conditioning bears and other wildlife to human food sources inevitably leads to bear/human conflicts. Additionally, threatened and endangered species—including eagles, wolves, and grizzly bears—and other wildlife become attracted to the bait stations. The first known wolf to have roamed New England in over 40 years was shot last fall at a bait station in Maine by a black bear hunter.

Baiting for bears is legal in only 11 states—Maine, New Hampshire, Michigan, Minnesota, Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska. Over a million Colorado residents voted to ban the practice in 1992, and Oregon residents can do the same in this year's November election.



It's time to ban this cruel, sloppy and unsporting practice. Not only because an average of 70 percent of people polled (separately in five different states in which it is still practiced) think it should be stopped, but because the bears deserve a break.

Vistara Parham and the Fund for Animals helped with this article.

Victory!

Ninth Circuit Court Rules in Favor for Mt. Graham

Yo! More good news for Mt. Graham. On August 28th the Ninth Circuit Court denied a University of Arizona (U of A) motion to overturn the permanent injunction against construction of the Columbus telescope on Mount Graham. This ruling means that (for all intents and purposes) U of A will not start construction of the Columbus telescope on Mount Graham this year. Further, if Mt. Graham supporters prevail on the appeal, the US Forest Service and the US Fish & Wildlife Service will have to comply with environmental law regarding the U of A's telescope project on Mount Graham.

In July of this year, Judge Marquez (in Tucson, Arizona) granted a permanent injunction against construction of the Columbus telescope on Mount Graham until the U of A, the US Forest Service and the US Fish & Wildlife Service comply with the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. This ruling came from a lawsuit brought against the U of A and the government by the Mount Graham Coalition and 20 other environmental groups and individuals.

The court's decision flattened U of A's argument that western civilization would end if construction could not begin immediately. And again, the court agreed with environmentalists that the location sought by U of A and blessed by the government does not comply with environmental law. The ninth-circuit panel added one hitch to their decision. Judge Marquez must review what his injunction forbids the U of A from doing on Mount Graham.

Related to the Ninth Circuit's decision, on August 22, the Justice Department decided to appeal Judge Marquez's district court decision. Although the government did not join the frivolous U of A motion, the Justice Department timed their appeal motion to help the U of A's ill-fated court arguments. The environmental plaintiffs in the lawsuit urge the US government to take this ruling as a sign that the government should "quit fooling around, and follow the law for a change."

Suit Filed to Protect Mexican Spotted Owl

BY KIERAN SUCKLING

A coalition of environmental groups including the Southwest Center for Biological Diversity, the Greater Gila Biodiversity Project, Forest Conservation Council, Forest Guardians, Carson Forest Watch, Maricopa Audubon, and Dine CARE have filed suit against the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the US Forest Service (USFS) for failing to formally consult with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) over the effects of their Forest Plans and Timber Program on the threatened Mexican spotted owl. Thus far the USFS has ignored requests by the FWS and environmentalists to conduct a programmatic consultation on the cumulative effects of their entire extraction programs. The Forest Service and the BIA prefer to consult piece-meal on individual projects since it is virtually impossible to fully analyze the ill effects of logging at the landscape level on a project-by-project basis. The commodity-driven agencies have a vested interest in preventing a comprehensive view of their activities.

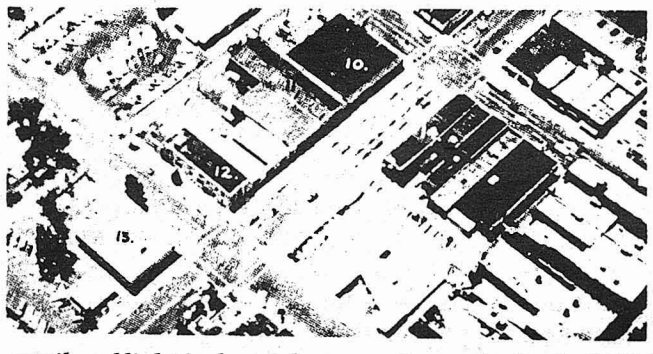
Following *Pacific Rivers vs. Robertson* which secured injunctions against the Wallowa-Whitman and Umatilla National Forests, the plaintiffs have asked for an injunction against all timber sales, road construction and mining within Mexican spotted owl habitat until the agencies complete the consultation process, which could take a year or more. The injunction would include all 11 National Forests in New Mexico and Arizona and the Navajo Reservation. An injunction is likely since agencies are not permitted to irretrievably commit resources during the processing of Section 7 Consultations under the Endangered Species Act.

Sterling Forest

Biological Corridor Near NYC

Sterling Forest is an oasis 40 miles from New York City. If this 17,500-acre forest is not saved from development it will soon be home to 35,000 new residents with their cars and oil stained driveways. We can expect at least 35,000 new toilets connected to miles of sewer lines, hundreds of new washing mashines spewing hundreds of thousands of gallons of waste water, miles of power and phone lines, thousands of new street lights, traffic lights, and hundreds of miles of new roads and...STOP!

Sterling Forest is owned by the Sterling Forest Corporation which is controlled by the Tryqq-Hansa Group, Sweden's largest insurance company. Their development plans call for a "city" of 35,000 inhabitants and 20,000 daily workers. The plan also calls for the development of 8 million square feet of commercial



retail and light industrial space—the equivalent of 240 football fields. For the 35,000 inhabitants, 13,170 new dwellings would be built, of which 54 percent would be single family homes. The plan also calls for allocating 76 percent of the total acreage to "open space," which would include six parks, three golf courses and a ski center.

Sterling Forest currently functions as an unbroken biological corridor running east-west between the Delaware River and the Hudson River. Many animal species such as black bear, bobcats, coyotes, foxes and hundreds of species of birds use this corridor to migrate throughout the seasons. It is also an important buffer for the six miles of the Appalachian Trail which run through the forest.

The Sterling Forest Corporation is willing to sell this property to the state for $50-70 million. New Jersey has already agreed to purchase 2,000 acres for $10 million. Governor Cuomo of New York has pledged $15 million from New York's Environmental Trust Fund and is urging support in Congress for a bill that would authorize the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, the agency which would manage the Bi-State preserve, to receive up to $35 million from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. The balance of the funds would come from private investors. In early August of this year, the National Parks Service pledged $17.5 million for the preservation of Sterling Forest—a substantial amount but only about half of what the state was hoping to get.

Negotiations with Sterling Forest Corporation ended last year, when the state was unable to gain solid commitments from private investors and the Federal Government. New York State and the private investors will not commit themselves until there is a Federal guarantee of monies.

What You Can Do

There are two bills in Congress right now which need your support; S1683 and HR2741. It is critical that a large number of people call and write on this issue. New York residents should contact Senators D'Amato and Moynihan; incredibly, neither Senator has signed on yet. Please call and let them know that this legislation is important to you: (800) 768-2221.

Nothing much has moved in either house due to the protracted debate on the Crime Bill and Health Care. It is more important than ever to keep the pressure on while these other issues are being debated. A vote could come at any time with very little warning. Please call your representatives today, tomorrow may be too late!

For more information contact Sterling Forest Resources, 7 Spring Rock Drive, Goshen, NY 10924, (914) 294-3098 or the NY-NJ Trail Conference, 232 Madison Ave, New York, NY 10016, (212) 685-9699.

Salvage Appeal Won!

BY KIERAN SUCKLING

The Greater Gila Biodiversity Project has won its appeal of the Stone Salvage Timber Sale on the Black Range of the Gila National Forest. The sale is one of the first of a salvage onslaught the USFS is preparing for the Southwest. The Freddies argued the sale was necessary to preserve "forest health" from the combined effects of bark beetle, mistletoe and fire.

Our appeal was based on a wealth of scientific literature which disputed the Freddies claim that bark beetles and mistletoe were immenent threats to the area. Recent studies have linked dwarf mistletoe infestation of Ponderosa pine with high bird diversity and abundance. Dwarf mistletoe serves an important role as a perching and nesting substrate. As one study concluded: "in areas where the conservation of biological diversity is part of the management plan, the battle against dwarf mistletoe might best be laid to rest." The Forest Service was also unable to explain how the sale would produce an estimated 41 jobs. Using standard economic methodology, we calculated that five jobs would be created.

It is painfully obvious that the Forest was intent on logging the Black Range and considered the Environmental Assessment a mere formality. Early on in the scoping process, for example, the Forest argued *in the same letter* that salvage logging was necessary because the burned trees were rotting too slowly, and that the sale had to be administered immediately because the trees were rotting too fast. The Forest also argued that logging would mimic the effects of nature by "opening up" the forest. The area, however, was already opened up by a fire.

In the coming years we expect a huge increase in salvage timber sales in order to make up for timber lost to the Northern goshawk, Apache goshawk and Mexican spotted owl. The Forest Service has already begun a glossy, full color propaganda campaign to make people believe that New Mexico and Arizona's forests will die or burn if they are not allowed to log them. Thus far, however, we have been quite successful in using conservation biology to grind the timber program way down, and expect to be successful on the next battle front.

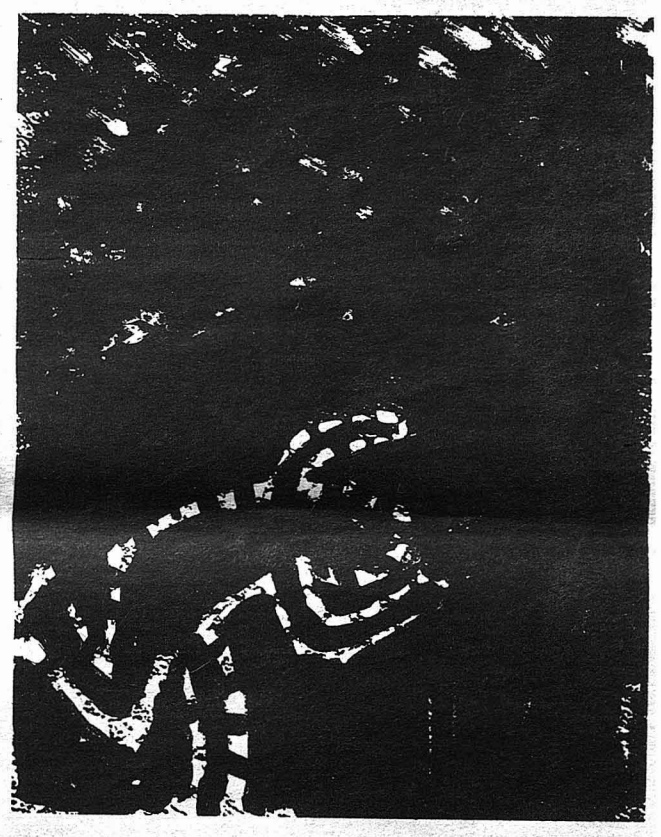
Tragedy in the Sierra Madre

Letters Needed Now!

Murder of community leaders is common in the Sierra Madre Occidental of northern Mexico, where violence and destruction of indigenous forests benefits both logging companies and drug traffickers. The last remaining ancient pine forests in Chihuahua are endangered by uncontrolled roadbuilding and strategic attacks on indigenous communities.

The most rampant violence plagues the Baborigame zone where three to four people are killed every week, mostly Tarahumara and Tepehuan Indians. Production of marijuana and opium in the remote Sierra generates millions of dollars in profits for drug traffickers who are often tied to local political bosses (*caciques*). *Narcotraficantes* and *caciques* violently protect these profits and control local governments, police, and indigenous land.

The *Colorades de la Virgen Ejido* has been especially hard hit and only 35 widows remain with their children. *Cacique* and drug trafficker Artemio Fontes terrorized Colorades and opened the door for Impulsora, a Mexican logging company, and Duraply, a Canadian company, to log community forests.



Colorades was cheated by the logging companies who promised but did not provide a school, cash payments nor other benefits.

However, unprecedented cooperation between local communities, environmental and human rights activists, and Mexican state and federal agencies is working to end this pattern of violence, deforestation and corruption. Efforts to set aside protected community reserves under the Mexican Constitution are hampered by violence and intimidation against remote indigenous villages often harboring significant stands of old growth. Ultimately, the legalization of drugs in Mexico and/or the United States may offer the quickest solution for the Sierra by taking away profits that spur violence in the region.

With the recent elections in Mexico, letters are urgently needed to prod the new president into action. Insist on the arrest and conviction of all caciques and drug traffickers that have terrorized the Baborigame region for the last ten years. Also, urge the Mexican government to support the work of PGR, Lic. Teresa Jardi, and Edwin Bustillos to restore justice and find alternatives to illegal logging in the Sierra. If the Mexican government seeks free trade with the US then it must defend the basic rights of its people. Write to President Zedillo, Palacio Nacional, 06067 Mexico DF, Mexico; and to Gubanador Fransisco Barrio Torres, Palacio Gobierno, Colonia Centro, 31000 Chihuahua, Chihuahua Mexico.

For more information contact the Native Forest Network Southwest, POB 1788 Silver City, NM 88062, (505) 538-0427, Email: tfullum@igc.apc.org; or the Sierra Madre Program, 1700 N. Wentworth, Tucson, AZ 87549, (602) 749-0585, fax: 749-0587.

Then is Now

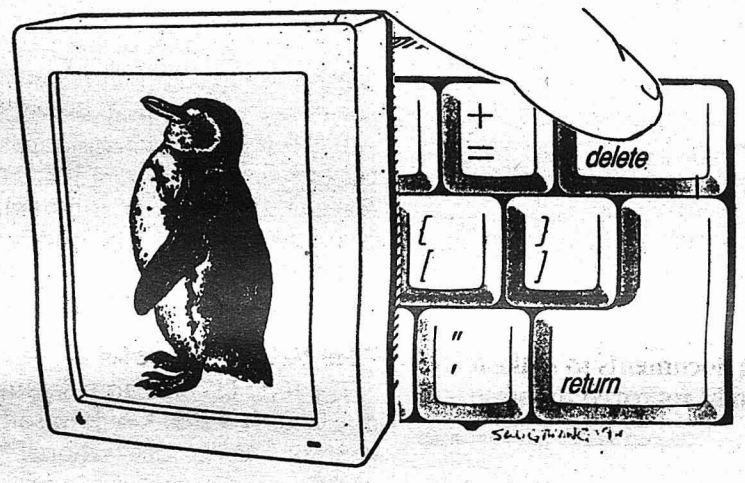
BY FRANK WATERS

What Auschwitz was to its human inmates—an expertly rationalized, efficiently organized killing ground—our urban-industrial system is fast becoming for the biosphere at large.

—Theodore Roszak, *The Voice of the Earth*

In the last few years the word "ecoholocaust" has been creeping into our vocabulary. For many, the meaning is immediately provocative: to say "ecoholocaust" is to imply that the destruction of the biosphere resembles the Holocaust that was perpetrated on the Jews and other non-Aryans during World War II. Several questions present themselves: is there a significant difference between the mass murder of humans and the destruction of species? Or, to put it another way, is there really a difference between genocide and ecocide? Furthermore, what are the psychological and sociological factors which contribute to such behavior?

For biocentrists, the reality of the ecoholocaust is obvious. Human supremacists, on the other hand, reject the comparison outright. If pressed, they will claim that the Holocaust of the early 1940s was of far greater significance because it involved human beings. This, of course, comes as no surprise. Human supremacists believe that humans are exalted and exempt from biological reality. They value human life above all else and believe that human suffering is more significant than the suffering of non-human creatures.



Philosophically and biologically, this objection simply does not hold water. Aside from our own selfish interests, there is simply no reason to suppose that human beings are more important than other creatures or even that we suffer more; we merely find our own suffering more understandable. In spite of our unique qualities, we remain a single species in an inter-dependent biosphere. If we hope to exercise any sort of biological morality at all, we are compelled to admit that wanton destruction of any part of the living world is wrong, regardless of what form those parts might happen to take.

Even if human supremacists were right in their priorities, they would still be wrong in fact. The reality is that, no matter what you happen to believe about the cosmic status of homo sapiens, the destruction of the natural world is about people, too. Killing ecosystems kills plants, animals *and* human beings. Deforestation kills trees and fish, but it also kills people with floods and topsoil erosion. It makes no difference which you happen to value more, the end result is the same—destroy an ecosystem and you destroy all the creatures that depend on it for survival. In this way, ecocide *is* genocide.

The second objection to "ecoholocaust" is to say that the destruction of the natural world is simply "not that bad." Sure there are some problems, the status quo objects, but they can be reversed with effective management. From the living room of a prosperous Western home, this may appear to be the case, but the reality is a biological nightmare. By the time you finish reading this article, we will have added some 500 people to the world's population, added another 500 tons of carbon to the atmosphere and destroyed enough habitat to ensure the extinction of another species or two. Even the most conservative biologists agree that we are living in the midst of the greatest spasm of species extinction in the last 65 million years. If this does not count as a holocaust, nothing does. The situation is "that bad," or worse.

The third objection points to intention. Defenders of the status quo protest that the Nazis were inherently evil, whereas we are simply disorganized and inefficient. They claim that the destruction of the natural world is simply a regrettable byproduct of human productivity. They admit to some environmental problems, but insist that the situation is an accident, not a crime; the Nazis were culpable and we are not.

There is some degree of truth to this perspective, but it still misses the point on two counts. In the first place, it ignores the reality of war-time Germany. While it is obviously true that the Nazi culture was saturated with darkness, it is also the case that much of the Holocaust was carried out by normal, ordinary people. The operative force was not so much racism as it was obedience, group-think, and the bureaucratic mind.

In this respect, the two holocausts have far more in common than most people would like to admit. The ecoholocaust has its own agents of evil to be sure: poachers who take endangered species for their profitable aphrodisiac qualities, developers who pave for profit, timber barons who clear-cut forests to pay off junk bonds, and corporate boards who intentionally suppress sustainable technologies. By and large however, the bulk of the destruction gets done by the obedient worker just doing his or her job. The boss wants that land cleared, that junk product produced and that news story manipulated, and by God, if we want to keep our jobs, we are going to do it.

This behavioral tendency is typified by Stanley Milgram's famous experiment in social psychology, described to its subjects as "a test of human learning." The whole test's purpose was faked, of course. Milgram was really testing human behavior in the face of authority—in this case, a white-coated scientist who instructed people to give electric shocks to a human subject. To his astonishment, Milgram discovered most people were willing to obey the authority figure, to the extent of giving dangerous and even lethal shocks to the subjects. His conclusions are clear:

Behavior that is unthinkable in an individual who is acting on his own may be executed without hesitation when carried out under orders... The most fundamental lesson is that ordinary people, simply doing their jobs, and without any particular hostility on their part, can become agents in a terrible, destructive process.

Milgram's conclusions apply with equal gravity to 1942 Germany and 1994 North America. Most Germans no doubt wanted to do what was best for their country, but because of their obedience, some or many allowed themselves to believe they were obligated to help solve "the Jewish question." This opened the door to Auschwitz, Buchenwald, and "The Final Solution." Chris Browning described the result in *The Path to Genocide*: "the inability to assert moral autonomy against the majority of one's comrades and the authority of the regime were sufficient to turn most of them into killers."

Everyone knows that Hitler was mad, but we tend to forget the behavior of the middle- and lower-echelon managers in the National Socialist Party. These were the "desk murderers" who administrated the grim details of death. Their main concern was, as it is in today's workplace, career preservation and advancement. As we all know, the way to climb the ladder is to impress your superiors with your diligence in pursuing *their* interests. As Browning put it:

For the most part, the Final Solution would be implemented not by zealots, but rather by the 'normal' bureaucrats who waited for the signal from above. The personal adjustment that each had to make dovetailed so completely with his own career self-interest that there was no sudden crisis of conscience, no traumatic agonizing, no consciousness of crossing an abyss, virtually no foot-dragging, and only occasional attempts to escape personal involvement.

We too have our own set of "desk murderers"—spreadsheet jockeys who are blind to all considerations other than profit, attorneys who represent any interest for the right price, US Forest Service managers who sell timber below cost and BLM administrators who support overgrazing on public lands, to name a few.

In both cases, passive complicity makes atrocity possible. In Germany, few citizens doubted that there was "a Jewish problem." Today, few people challenge the belief that growth and consumption are the most essential human activities. Few people question the pro-natalist mind set that is driving the exponential curve. Few people question our neoplastic relationship with the living Earth. Good employees, like good soldiers, don't ask questions.

Common to both holocausts is the tendency to dismiss atrocities as freakish, temporary aberrations. We assume that our species is basically humane and intelligent, so when we see evidence to the contrary, our first response is to dismiss it as an exception to the norm. There is no question that many Germans as well as many Jews saw the early terrorism in the ghettos as temporary madness. Who could have expected that genocide would have become a standard, institutionalized practice?

We would do well to remember that the European holocaust did not begin with systematic extermination of the non-Aryans; it began with bureaucratic proclamation, confiscations and forced dislocations. These were obviously unjust, but since they came against a background of relative stability, they seemed to be temporary anomalies. No one expected the genocide that was to come. Most people believed that, in spite of evidence to the contrary, Germany was essentially a civilized nation.

In this respect, the ecoholocaust is no different. We hear of species extinctions and deforestation but, believing ourselves to be fundamentally sensible and rational, we dismiss them as temporary lunacies, managerial dysfunctions, accidents or planning failures. Surely the corporate and government managers are doing their best to right this dreadful situation and we will be returning to ecological sanity soon

But now to our horror, we begin to see that these are not temporary lunacies at all, that the assault on the environment has become institutionalized. Ecocide is now officially sanctioned; the environmental Auschwitz is now up and running. Buchenwald is on-line. Species are being exterminated with the same ruthless efficiency that the Germans showed in the 1940s. As the Jews were then, we are now seized with horror as our worst nightmare comes to life.

The key psychological component in each case is denial. According to a survey taken in 1993, an astonishing one fifth of Americans polled declared that they believed the actual occurrence of the Holocaust to be an open question (Roper Poll taken April 1993, reported on NBC Nightly News). Similarly, most people balk at the mention of the word "ecoholocaust." They refuse to acknowledge species and habitat destruction and our role in creating it. Our capacity for denial is prodigious; if we can deny the Holocaust that took place in Germany, we can deny virtually anything, including the ecological holocaust that is taking place at this very minute.

In the end, we must recognize genocide and ecocide as two variations on a single theme. Both the Holocaust and the ecoholocaust are senseless acts of violence to parts of the natural world. Both are morally outrageous and both are a blight on the human reputation.

It is essential that we admit the word ecoholocaust into our vocabulary and our consciousness. This would be an enormous step for an anthropocentric culture to take, but it is absolutely necessary. There can be no healing until we admit the violence that is under way and our role in creating it. Our current predicament may be somewhat more complex than Germany's, but it is no less atrocious. An assault on the biosphere is an assault on all living things, including humanity. Destruction of habitat kills just as surely as a bullet to the back of the neck or a lung-full of poison gas. We delude ourselves if we say that we are innocent.

Desoto National Forest Under Attack

National Guard Wants to Clearcut and Take Over 32,000 Acres

As the oldest national forest in Mississippi, the Desoto NF is home to some of the finest woods in the state. Desoto's Black Creek District in particular is important to folks from all walks of life. Within it lie the Black Creek and Leaf River Wilderness Areas, Ashe Nursery—one of the oldest in the county, the Leaf River and Black Creek Wildlife Management Areas, and protected reserves for numerous endangered species.

To the north lies Camp Shelby, Mississippi's base for National Guard Training. Camp Shelby is the largest Guard training base in the country, occupying sizable holdings south of Hattiesburg. For several years, Camp Shelby has followed an American military policy of taking over public lands. With its occupation of National Forest and BLM areas, the US military now uses or holds 25 million acres of federal lands.

Camp Shelby has a permit which allows it to use all 116,000 acres of the Black Creek District for training at various times in the year. Its recent permit renewal allows the use of a portion of the forest for bombing practice—where unexploded shells presently lie—as well as other areas of Desoto for tank and troop maneuvers.

Camp Shelby Takeover: Early Attempts

Since 1989, Camp Shelby has attempted a radical expansion of its presence in Desoto. *Outright control* is a more accurate description. Shelby originally sought full title to 32,000 acres of Desoto to expand its tank maneuver area. In return, the US Forest Service (USFS) would receive 16,000 acres of land in Pinyon Canyon, Colorado. Sound strange? In typical fashion, bureaucrats would shuffle public lands from one federal agency to another, with no regard to the people or wildlife of either state.

Gen. Arthur J. Farmer, Commander of the Mississippi National Guard, writing to Representative Jamie L. Whitten on February 13, 1989, stated, "I solicit your support in an immediate exchange of the 32,000 acres for tank maneuvers and to obtain the entire 116,000 acres within *the next few years.*" The National Guard never informed the public of their goal to obtain full title to the entire Black Creek District.

The leadership of Camp Shelby thus began a campaign of disinformation about the nature and intent of their "land swap" proposal. The general public was and continues to be left in the dark. Camp Shelby's leaders made false assertions, claiming that the base itself would close if they did not receive title to the Desoto. Of course, this has since been proven false.

Designs on the Leaf River Wildlife Area

A large portion of the 32,000 acres lies in the Leaf River Wildlife Management Area, in Perry County. Managed jointly by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (WFP) and the US Forest Service (USFS), the Leaf River Area became a focus of controversy. The proposal for the land swap produced an Environmental Impact Statement. The EIS studied the impact that a military takeover would likely have on the Leaf River Area, the Desoto National Forest and their environs. Public meetings were held to address the issue.

From the beginning, the brusqueness of Camp Shelby's leadership was evident. On November 28, 1989, General Farmer wrote to Vernon Bevill, Director of WFP, displaying characteristic insensitivity. With the initial EIS already finished, Farmer told Bevill that WFP should "increase the Leaf River Wildlife Management Area by 10,000 acres. This will necessitate a revised Wildlife Management Plan to address changes due to the proposed Tank Maneuver Area, and additional acreage. It is further suggested that the WFP acquire additional staff in future management. To begin the planning process a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) should be drafted and agreed upon by both agencies."

Farmer writes as if the decision had already been made in his favor. Bevill, not surprisingly, found the request for a MOU "premature." In his December 14 reply, Bevill went further, finding fault with Farmer's staff for wording documents to make it appear as if WFP had already approved the swap.

Grassroots Opposition Answers

Fortunately, a coalition of Forrest and Perry County residents emerged to speak out for the Desoto Forest. Many different people spoke in defense of the forest: hunters, area landowners, military personnel, biologists, and outdoor enthusiasts. Walter M. Denton, a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel, spoke from a lifetime's involvement with both Desoto and Shelby. "Our national forest belongs to the people, not the military. The propaganda that Shelby needs more land and will close without it [has] been fostered by greed, misinformation, and politics."

From Land Swap to Land Steal

In untangling the confusing web of facts and falsehoods surrounding the Land Swap proposal, advocates for Desoto's preservation shed light on the values of the forest—and exposed the truth behind Shelby's intentions. In response to the outcry against the Land Swap proposal, the Mississippi-Colorado public land transfer met defeat in 1991. Then Shelby made another attempt to gain control of Desoto.

Camp Shelby has requested the Forest Service to expand their permit, in what with classic doublespeak they're calling a "reconfiguration of the existing permit." This proposal calls for clearcutting 32,000 acres—22,000 of which are in the Leaf Wildlife Area. Imagine nearly 60 square miles of decimated land.

The purpose for this destruction? Camp Shelby wishes to wipe out the forests of the Leaf River Area to "enable advanced battalion training" for their armored division. Their current permit already allows company-sized tank groups along backroads and carelessly blazed trails through the woods, often leaving ruts two feet deep—something that even logging operators aren't permitted to do.

How Shelby can call this "reconfiguration" is difficult to imagine. Shelby leaders crassly suggested that the area would (nominally) remain under USFS management. The State Game and Fish Department, faced with these conditions, has considered abandoning the Management Area.

Camp Shelby's proposal flies in the face of current domestic policy. There are at least 22 bases closing around the country, and Shelby already has a huge base area. Even if Shelby really did "need" more space, they already have access to Ft. Hood nearby, which is available for large scale maneuvers. Denton, in an April 4, 1993 newspaper column, quotes opinions from recent military policy makers which echo the general change in military training towards working in small units, cutting expense, and downscaling. He further rebuts the propaganda that Shelby would close without the expansion.

Leaf River Wildlife Area: A Forest Endangered

Leaf River Wildlife Management Area (WMA), the nation's oldest, is home to many endangered plants and animals. These include the red cockaded woodpecker and the gopher tortoise, both of which count on Leaf River WMA for protected places where they may thrive. Shelby's claim that it will care for the welfare of these species as well as the landscape, streams, and woods, in the face of such massive deforestation and training impact, are ludicrous. Its proposal for tortoise habitat amounts to allowing 30 acre stands of trees to remain, while tanks tear around in the clearcut areas surrounding them.

The Fate of Desoto

The final EIS on Camp Shelby's permit request is due in early 1995. Ken Johnson, Forest Superintendent for Mississippi's National Forests, holds the decision on the proposed permit. The EIS, he says, will form the basis of his decision. Although independent scientists, foresters, and biologists are giving input to the study, as are Forest Service employees, control of the study and its publication has been given to the Army Corps of Engineers—hardly an unbiased agency.

Many people living in the areas surrounding the forest live in fear of the expansion. Beaumont residents are already plagued by the noise of strafing aircraft, damage to their forests from tank training, pressure from Shelby to sell their lands, and hazards which have become life threatening. A Beaumont schoolteacher, whose home borders an elementary school, was jolted on May 4 of this year by a BDU 33 practice bomb which penetrated eight feet underground, just missing her gas tank. An F-16 jet from Shelby had flown overhead, dropped the practice bomb, and attributed it to "mechanical failure." Incidents such as this are not uncommon near Camp Shelby.

How is it that our National Forests are being taken out of the public's hands and put into those of the military? Must the woods and streams precious to all life be destroyed in the name of bureaucracy? Within the Desoto are many beautiful places, but there are others, such as one north of Brooklyn where bomb shelters and a cratered field lie with unexploded bombs and mines, or one near Eight Mile Road where behind a fence, junked cars are machine-gunned from helicopters. Many forget that these places are not Camp Shelby, but the people's lands of the Desoto National Forest. The national forests are home to all life; let us not lose sight of the vision which brought the forests into being.

Please demand that the National Guard and all military activities be permanently withdrawn from the Desoto National Forest. Contact: Kenneth R. Johnson, Forest Supt., National Forests in Mississippi, 100 W. Capitol St., Suite 1141, Jackson, MS 39269, (601) 965-5486.

Rainbow Diggers

Restore Trees to Road Construction

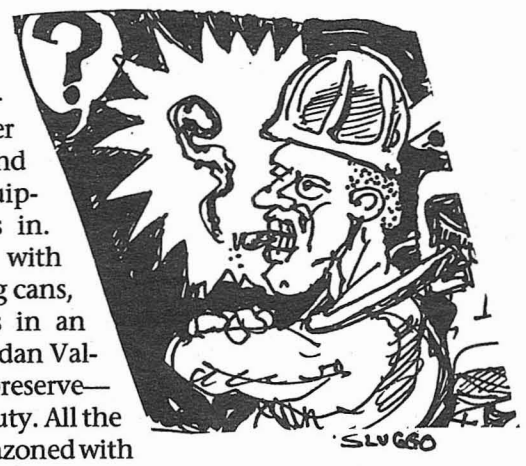
BY FARADAWN

Greenpeace activists joined forces with local anti-road protesters to deconstruct part of the new extension to the M65 motor way in Lancashire, England, and replant it with trees and other vegetation.

Two large earth movers, brightly painted with rainbows, doves and the Greenpeace logo, led a group of protesters dubbed the "Rainbow Deconstruction Company." The group included local mothers, other residents, activists from Lancashire Earth First! and other groups opposed to the road, and over 50 Greenpeace volunteers.

Greenpeace is intervening in this road scheme to draw attention to a global impact that affects us all. Road transport is the fastest growing source of carbon dioxide (CO_2), the principal gas contributing to climate change and global warming. CO_2 emissions from transport are set to rise by 70 percent as traffic levels double by the year 2025. Throughout the summer, Greenpeace has been running a vigorous campaign to persuade the British government to substantially cut CO_2 emissions,

"The construction of this road is causing appalling damage to our environment. We are deconstructing it in a symbolic regeneration of the green site that was here before," said Kristen Denker, Greenpeace Climate Change Campaigner.



While the Rainbow Diggers moved piles of earth to fill in a newly constructed culvert, and smoothed out newly prepared sloping banks, other activists occupied a compound of road construction equipment, locking themselves in. Nearly 100 others worked with garden spades and watering cans, planting trees and shrubs in an attempt to restore the Cuerdan Valley—once part of a nature preserve—to its former woodland beauty. All the activists wore T-shirts emblazoned with "TREES NOT TARMAC."

"It's a great feeling to be planting trees and putting right the damage Tarmac have done," said local activist Jan Maxey.

In order to stop the "Rainbow Machines," the security guards began chaining themselves to the dozers. This certainly shows that our tactics are being adopted by everyone.

Good to see Greenpeace off their asses and doing something!

CRISP-O Ethical Shoplifting

Citizen's Recovery of Indigenous People's Stolen Property - Organization

CRISP-O evolved in Norwich, England, and became the direct action element of the mahogany campaign. It is a loosely connected network of grassroots activists who enjoy "shopping with a difference!"

In July 1993 the first ethical shoplifting action was carried out by CRISP-O officers. Four women removed pieces of Brazilian mahogany from Bonds department store in Norwich—including a toilet seat, clock and lamp stand—and took them straight to the local police station to declare the items as stolen property.

They wanted the police to seriously investigate their claim that these stores ought to be prosecuted for handling stolen property—mahogany stolen from indigenous peoples in Brazil. Three of the women were arrested, detained under the charge of theft, and strip searched in case they were harboring other mahogany items. All this, when they had voluntarily gone into the police station to report a crime! After being released, they immediately returned to the front desk of the police station with a film crew.

CRISP-O was assisted by The Nucleus for Indigenous Rights (NDI), part of the Brazilian Coalition which had successfully filed three court injunctions prohibiting loggers from further illegal exploitation of indigenous lands. NDI sent copies of their legal documentation and indigenous people's statements that enabled CRISP-O to back up their claims.

On December 10th, 1993, as part of UN Human Rights Day and Climate Alliance Action Day, CRISP-O organized a demonstration and "seizure" in London at Harrods, one of the world's best-known department stores. Despite heavy Christmas-time security, CRISP-O officers were able to reclaim 12 Brazilian mahogany items including a side table. Others were caught inside the store carrying out tables and chairs and were issued letters banning them from shopping at Harrods again! There were several hundred demonstrators outside Harrods, holding banners with slogans such as "Mahogany is Murder."

Ethical shoplifting has lead to a few arrests, but no charges for theft. After all, CRISP-O officers only "seize" and give the items to the police for them to decide to whom the goods belong.

Although the specific effect of CRISP-O actions is hard to guage, three major traders have now ceased selling mahogany, including one that was directly targeted by ethical shoplifters. Loads of activists are renewed and empowered by their first direct action, and many more ideas for further CRISP-O actions are in the pipeline. One idea is to join with Brazilian groups to do combined seizure, take out private prosecutions against timber yards and retailers dealing in mahogany, and swamp the Law Courts in London with piles of mahogany—with "Return To Owner" labels attached. For more info, contact:

CRISP-O, 42-46 Bethel St., Norwich, Norfolk, NR2 1NR, England, (0603) 631007, Fax: (0603) 666879

MONK PROTECTS THAI FOREST

By ordaining trees as the "children of Buddha," a monk in Thailand has prevented clearcutting in the Dong Yai forest. Phra Prajak Kuttagitto has ordained thousands of acres of Thai teak trees since he began his work in 1987. A poor villager can get $8,000 from the military for one teak tree; however, fear of inciting the wrath of Buddha keeps people from felling the teaks.

Many of the villagers have been pushed into destroying the forest because of a Thai government "reforestation" program. The reforestation entails bulldozing the teak forest and replacing it with faster growing Eucalyptus trees which will then be used for pulp and paper products. So far 40,000 villagers have been relocated since the start of the project. In 1992, Prajak was arrested twice while leading a protest of reforestation–displaced villagers. He was sentenced to 18 months in prison, but a sympathetic judge intervened and said Prajak had done a good deed for the country. The judge then suspended Prajak's sentence.

Prajak looks at the forest as "the dharma, the natural law," and the "university of life." Each day he continues his struggle to protect his university, which provides homes for tigers, small bears, monkeys, deer and wild pigs. After meditation every morning, Prajak walks through his religious sanctuary, checks for downed trees and ordains more teaks with saffron robes.

SNOW

—BY EUGENE KOSHKAREV, TRANSLATED BY KATHLEEN BRADEN, INTERNATIONAL SNOW LEOPARD TRUST

Of the many problems facing Kazakhstan and the republics of Central Asia after the breakup of the USSR, poaching of endangered animals is of particular concern. Everything is up for sale through the black market, networks of acquaintances, middlemen, or even advertisements in newspapers: horns, skins, mounted trophies, animal parts for traditional medicine. Interest in snow leopard and Turkestan lynx (*lynx lynx isabellinus Blyth*) skins and horns from mountain sheep and goats sharply increased in 1992-93, and prices grew unusually high.

Earlier in Kyrgyzstan, snow leopard skins were traded for the equivalent of one horse or five domestic sheep, but today skins are worth 30 to 150 times more. Depending on location, snow leopard skins could be obtained during the winter of 1993-94 for a price equal to $500-2000 or 1-4 million rubles, 7-27 thousand somas (local currency). Lynx skins were selling for $200-500; arkhari (*Ovis ammon karelini*) horn, $100-200. Good examples of horns for hunting displays could be ten times higher. Mountain goat horns were selling two to three times cheaper than arkhari.

Solomon Islands Suspends Logging

Company Forum Faces a Range of Environmental Concerns

SOURCE: PAPUA NEW GUINEA TIMES

The Solomon Islands government has suspended the operations of a Malaysian logging company in what is seen as a new, tougher policy against environmental piracy in the South Pacific.

In Brisbane, Australia this week, the Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands, Francis Billy Hilly, also announced a moratorium on all new logging licenses as of the end of August. The suspended Malaysian Kumpalan Emas Group, operating as Sylvania Products, has been logging for several years in the Marovo Lagoon area in the Western Province of the Solomons.

Hilly said the decision to suspend the company's license was made following allegations that it had consistently carried out illegal forestry practices. He said the Marovo Lagoon was one of the finest environmental assets of the South Pacific region and was under consideration for World Heritage listing. In a joint statement with Hilly, the Australian Prime Minister, Paul Keating, said that in recognition of the environmental significance of Marovo Lagoon, the Australian government had offered the Solomon Islands a "debt for nature swap," worth about US $2 million. He said the money, which would help the Solomon Islands structural adjustment program, was conditional on a ban on all logging on government owned land in the area. Sylvania Products operates of government owned land. Keating said that in order to reduce the dependence of the people of the Marovo Lagoon area on forestry revenue, Australia would fund a feasability study of the area to encourage development of environmentally sensitive tourism industry. Hilly said a special Marovo task force would be established immediately to investigate the practices of Sylvania Products and other companies operating in the area. The task force would consist of officials from the Solomon Islands and Western Provincial governments and an independent international expert to be provided under Australian aid.

"We share our neighbors concerns about the future of our region's forests and we believe that together we can work to preserve the precious resource for our people, not just now, but for our children's children," he said. Keating said that Australia would be extending assistance to the Solomons by providing expert legal assistance to enable the govemnent to re-negotiate logging license agreements and ensure they were in accordance with sustainable levels. The Australian prime minister said that unless the environmental piracy of foreign logging companies operating in the South Pacific region was controlled, the future for the region would be bleak.

THE BIKIN RIVER BASIN IS UNDER THREAT – AGAIN!

SOURCE: PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES CENTER AND NATIVE FOREST NETWORK

Two weeks ago, Governor Yevgeny Nazdratenko of Primorsky Region in the Russian Far East made his first public statement in support of logging the headwaters of the Bikin River basin. On cable television in the local district capital Luchegorsk, Governor Nazdratenko stated that the forests of the upper Bikin were "dying out" and represented a great fire danger. As a result, he said, these forests must be logged as soon as possible to restore the ecological health of the forests. When asked by local press whether they would log only dead trees, however, Governor Nazdratenko stated that they would log everything.

The Bikin River basin of the Russian Far East first became widely known two years ago, when the South Korean corporation Hyundai, through its joint venture "Svetlaya," attempted to log the headwaters of the basin. The Bikin River basin contains large amounts of biodiversity and is one of the prime habitats remaining for the rare and endangered Amur (Siberian) tiger. The Bikin is also home to the indigenous Udege people, who have inhabited the basin for hundreds of years and whose livelihoods are based on hunting and fishing. For the last several years, the Udege have tried to obtain traditional land rights over the disputed lands in the upper third of the basin. But to date, those efforts have been blocked.

Through the joint efforts of the Udege, the Russian environmental movement, and the international environmental movement, Hyundai's efforts to log the Bikin in 1992 were blocked. The Udege hunters physically protected the upper basin from Hyundai's encroachment. A Greenpeace crew from the Rainbow Warrior blockaded the export dock at Svetlaya to focus attention on the trade in raw logs. A Russian and international letter and fax campaign put pressure on government officials to block the logging. Finally, logging was blocked when the Russian Supreme Court ruled that the joint venture "Svetlaya" had not fulfilled its obligations to provide a positive environmental impact assessment of their operations.

Pressure to log the Bikin decreased when former governor Kuznetsov left office in late spring, 1993. Kuznetsov had been one of the strongest Hyundai supporters, and one of the strongest advocates of clearcutting the Bikin. The new governor, Nazdratenko, did not take a stand on logging the Bikin until now.

WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

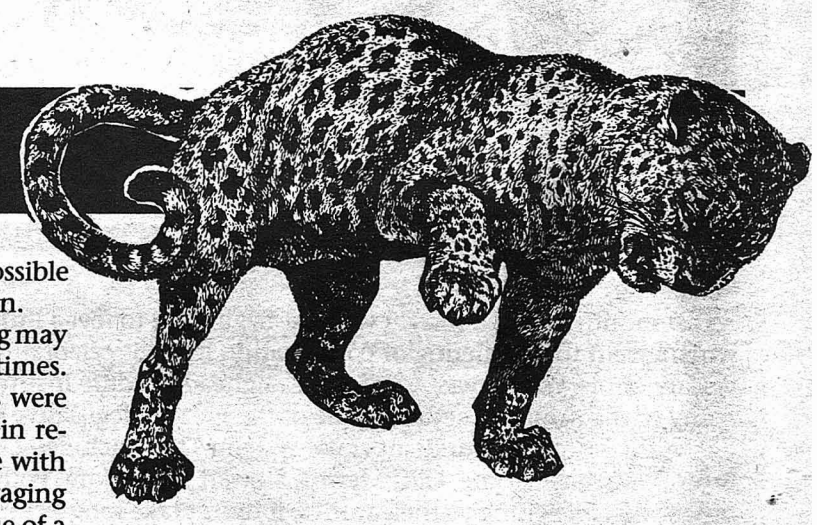
PERC's Siberian Forest Protection Project and the Native Forest Network are asking forest activists and groups to fax Governor Nazdratenko and tell him that the international environmental and indigenous communities are closely watching developments in the Bikin River basin. It is important to convey that fire is a necessary part of the Bikin's forests and that logging will not prevent forest fires. Using fire to promote industrial forestry is a smokescreen to allow more of Russia's timber mafia and multinational corporations to log the largest band of forest remaining on the planet. We need to express that any industrial logging in the basin will destroy the Udege people's lifestyles and the region's biodiversity. Please remind him that large-scale roadbuilding and clearcutting in this area is tantamount to genocide for the region's forest dwellers and wildlife. The upper Bikin basin is one of the world's great temperate forest ecosystems and should be protected in perpetuity for the Udege people to manage. If Governor Nazdratenko persists in pushing this proposal, emphasize that the Native Forest Network will initiate an international campaign targeting Russian embassies and consulates as well as national and international companies involved in logging the Upper Bikin.

Logging season starts in about 10 weeks, so we need to ACT NOW! Please write or fax:

Governor Yevgeny Nazdratenko
Primorsky Krai
Belyi Dom, Vladivostok, RUSSIA
fax: (011) 7-4232-22-10-19

For more information contact:
Native Forest Network
POB 8251
Missoula, MT 59807
(406) 728-0867
e-mail: nfnconferenc@igc.apc.org

LEOPARDS *in* KYRGYZSTAN



The scale of poaching is enormous. By personal observation during the winter of 1994 in the village of Pokrovka (now called Kyzyl-Su), snow leopard skins were being sold which were trapped along the northern slope of the Terskei Alatau in the following river basins: Chon-Kyzyl-Su, Kichi-Kyzyl-Su, Dzhukuchak, Dzhuuka, Chichkan, and Barskaun. Not less than twelve irbis skins and 34 lynx skins were for sale through a dealer. However, not all the lynx skins were fresh and apparently some had been caught in previous years. The general area inhabited by snow leopard in these basins totals 1500 sq. km.; by lynx, 450 sq. km. Thus, the total number of snow leopard and lynx trapped here during the winter of 1993-94 may represent up to half the wild population.

Another ten snow leopard skins which were trapped in the winter of 1993-94 appeared through a dealer in Karakol (formerly called Pokrovka). These animals were caught by a shepherd in the Sary-Dzhaz basin of the Dzhety-Oguzskiy region. More precise determination of the place where they were caught is not possible since they were being sold through a middleman.

My opinion is that the current scale of poaching may be three to four times greater than in previous times. Before the breakup of the USSR, snow leopards were caught mostly by hunter-shepherds who lived in remote regions of the Tien Shan, but now people with little experience who are novice hunters are engaging in the activity. In the winter of 1993-94 the value of a snow leopard skins was more than 60 times higher than the minimum yearly wage in Kyrgyzstan. Thus, it is hard to believe that there will be a decrease in poaching in the near future.

Even one of the main prey objects of the snow leopard, the gray marmot, is increasingly being sold. Their skins cost the equivalent of three dollars. Earlier, the maximum number of marmots caught by hunters in a season was 600-800. Today, apparently the number is less since the density of marmots has fallen in much of the region.

The main markets are located in Russia and among foreign tourists. However, despite the "black markets" appearing, there may be a decrease in the number of tourists in Central Asia and Kazakhstan due to instability in the region and poverty of local people who do not have the means to sell and transfer contraband. Nevertheless, dealers for skins and horns are continuing to enlarge their net of middlemen, and demand for traps and gun cartridges is not declining.

—reprinted from *Snow Line and Cat News*

Fires Rage in the Wild Rockies

BY HAMES

You may have read recently in the *Journal* (Beltane, '94) that the French Creek/Patrick Butte roadless area in Idaho—just south of Cove/Mallard in the Salmon-Selway ecosystem—is in dire danger of being gutted for timber. Turns out, though, that the summer's wildfires have put the Freddies all in a tizzy, and maybe put the doom off a little. But if we're not careful, this rich and beautiful place, which should be designated wilderness, will be even more completely devastated by a massive salvage/thinning timber operation the likes of which has not been seen in the Northern Rockies since the 1940s.

The whole shebang burned in the months of July and August, and it's burning now. Enormous clouds of roiling smoke fill the sky, engulfing—depending on the prevailing winds—the towns of Grangeville and McCall, Riggins and New Meadows. The sun turns the color of blood, and the brassy light filters through the haze. It's dry, and hot. Tiny pieces of ash—needles, bark, and wood—rain gently down on your head. The droning sound of aircraft—slurry bombers and smokejumper planes—becomes an unnoticed backdrop while the big choppers dip enormous buckets into the lakes and rivers, carrying them away, sloshing. The helicopters look like nothing so much as ravens flapping slowly away from the highway with too big a gobbet of roadkill. The analogy seems apt.

Many of the 11 scheduled giant timber sales planned for the French Creek area will be mooted by the fires. All the ecological parameters have changed—even if there is still marketable timber—and a great deal of the area has been returned to an earlier seral stage. The Forest Service has justified these sales, as it justifies every sale in the Intermountain West these days, on the basis of ecosystem health. Luckily for the forest, Mama sent us a dry year, and all the fuel build-up from Smokey Bear's fire suppression activities flamed away into the air, leaving the ecosystem clean and ready for new spring growth next year.

What we have to look out for, and what the recent spate of agency/industry/congressional dog and pony shows held in the West reveal, is that in the next year we can expect to see attempts to pass legislation that will direct the "emergency" salvage of every burned stick of timber in the Eastside/Upper Columbia basin. This legislation will additionally push for aggressive and accelerated "thinning" of green timber everywhere else. If the Beasties get their way, this bonanza of destruction will be exempt from current environmental laws (National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, etc.) and, naturally, from public review (appeals), and judicial review (lawsuits).

Senators Larry Craig (R-ID) and Tom Daschle (D-SD), chair of the Senate Agriculture subcommittee, which oversees conservation and forestry issues, see the summer's fires and their resulting publicity (Burning Homes! Dead Firefighters!) as a golden opportunity to win one for industry and end conservation influence in the northern Rockies once and for all. Jack Ward Thomas, bending over forwards for the honorable gentlemen, figures he can please the timber industry while duping the environmentally-conscious-but-relatively-innocent public into thinking Smokey is saving anything except corporate profits. Naturally, our job is not to let the bastard get away with it. Fires are good, and salvage is bad. Public participation in public lands issues is good, and pouring taxpayer cash into the fire suppression hole and salvage programs that follow, is an unconscionable drain on federal funds and a criminal attack on forest ecosystems.

Let it Burn and Leave it Alone.

What you can do:

Call up ol' Daschle and Craig at the Congressional switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and give 'em a piece of your mind. Or write them at US Senate, Washington, DC, 20510. Call your reps, too, and tell them how you will personally bring scandal and ruin to their houses, that you will hound them from office and bring dishonor upon their names and their families, should they support any such bill.

Also, while you're at it write the Forest Service for info on the Upper Columbia River Basin Environmental Impact Statement (UCRB EIS Project, 304 N 8th St, room 246, Boise, ID 83702) which, along with the Eastside Ecosystem Management Project, is how the northern Rockies is supposed to pay for the spotted owl. Demand that Project Manager Steve Mealy, the "Butcher of the Boise" (National Forest), be removed from the EIS team.

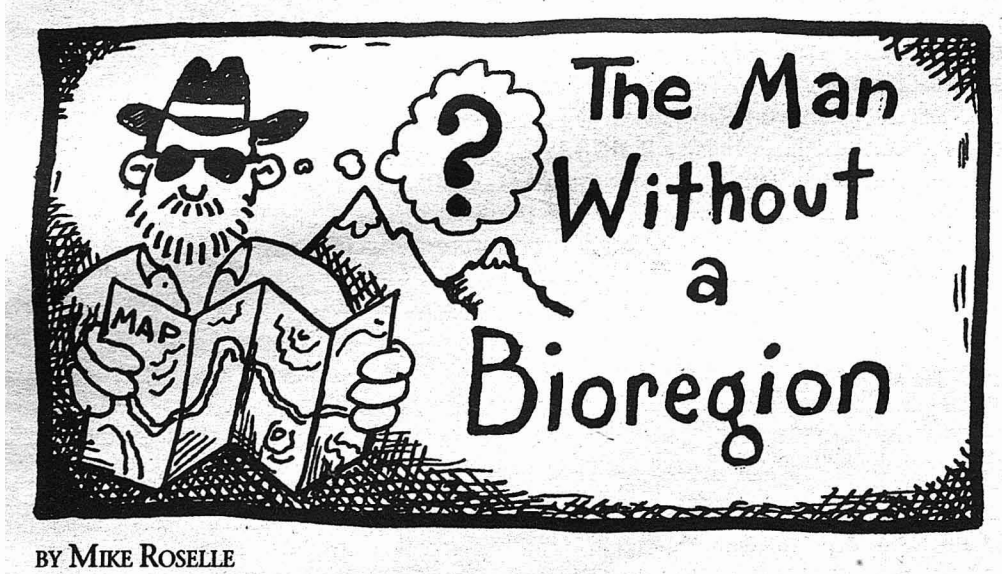
And then, if and when all else fails, be there and stop them.

Photo by Kimberly Dawn

Wild Rockies Day in McCall, Idaho...

A smoke in the hand is worth two fires in the bush; A Freddie in McCall, Idaho uses a fire extinquisher to put out flaming copies of the Environmental Impact Statement for the series of French Creek/Patrick Butte roadless area timber sales.

Never Give up the Struggle...Never



BY MIKE ROSELLE

Last month I turned forty. I was just beginning to feel a little older and wiser when I went to a gathering of conservation legends celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Wilderness Act at the Craighead Wildlife Institute. Present were many of the principal actors in one of the greatest legislative dramas ever played out in the history of our democratic system. They included David and Anne Brower, Michael Frome, Cliff Merritt, Stewart Brandborg, Polly Dyer and many others. After listening to their stories, it didn't take long before I felt like a pup again. Even Ramon looked like a young hippie in this crowd, at a spry 56 years of age.

Celebrations like this one are a rare event. This was a time when we could gather and listen to our elders impart some of their hard earned wisdom on the following generations, or as one person referred to it, listen to a buncha old farts yammer away about the good ol' days. Either way you look at it though, it was very educational. Kind of like the reunions the old World War II bomber pilots used to have, where remembrance is given solemnly to the ones who have passed away since the last meeting, and glasses are raised to acknowledge old friends.

I don't mean to take this subject too lightly, but it occurred to me how unusual this meeting really was. First, we are lucky nowadays to have an opportunity to be outnumbered by old farts, unless we've had the misfortune to pitch our tent near an RV dumping station. Second, it is even rarer when we are confronted with our own history. It is one thing to read all the history and commentary written about the conservation movement—most of which is bunk, of course. But hearing these veterans of many a wilderness battle spin their yarns—not for an audience, as at an Earth Day event on some dinky campus, but for the pure enjoyment of storytelling and friendship—I felt very privileged.

The wilderness movement today is quite large, although maybe not as influential as in years past. Today we stand on the shoulders of these giants in conservation whether we know it or not. It struck me that this group of people was our only link with our past. And yet many of us have little idea who they are, what they have done or sacrificed in order to speak out in defense of not just a few wilderness areas, but of the very concept of wilderness. Brandborg had his house in the Bitterroot burnt down twenty years ago, before anyone ever heard of the Wise Use assholes. Paul Fritz may have been among the first group of protesters to chain themselves to Redwood trees in California, nearly three decades ago.

To be sure, I'm not talking about a group of retirees here either. Many of these folks are still out there on the front lines fighting the good fight. Their message to us was a simple one: Never compromise. Never! Never give up the struggle no matter how hard the odds. Never sacrifice a wilderness area for a politician. Never give up the moral high ground, always believe in yourself. And for god's sake, take care of your teeth!

This message contrasted greatly with the message of a few of the younger folk. John McCarthy, of the Idaho Conservation League, and John Gatchell, two whippersnappers who have taken a lot of heat lately for getting too cozy with the Democratic party and their bosses in the timber and mining industry, clearly saw this advice as criticism, and became defensive. They listed many reasons why they were discouraged by current events: The ESA is under fire, Wise Use guys are getting more organized, Democrats beaten down by the right wing. It was all so gloomy. I couldn't help but think that *these* are the people who need to retire. They hardly seemed to have any fight left in them.

Overall, this event was very uplifting. It is good to know that us young'uns, as we continue the age-old battle to defend the natural world from the industrial greed merchants, will have such seasoned veterans standing beside us. We still need them, for guidance and for inspiration. I only hope that some of these mainstream conservationists will listen to them a little more closely, and take heart. As Yogi Berra used to say, "It ain't over 'til it's over."

Wildfire!

an endangered ecosystem process

Smokey the Bear's Legacy on the West

by George Wuerthner

No single human modification of the environment has had more pervasive and widespread negative consequences for the ecological integrity of North America than the suppression of fire. Fire suppression has destroyed the natural balance of the land more than overgrazing, logging, or the elimination of predators. One could easily build a case that an Environmental Impact Statement should be prepared prior to any fire suppression activities by government agencies since control of wildfires greatly alters the natural environment. Yet, most people are oblivious to the many long-term consequences of fire suppression policies.

Those who study fire ecology are painfully aware of the wounded landscape resulting from fire suppression. Wandering through Cascadia's Eastside Ponderosa pine forests and Westside Douglas-fir forests I see dying ecosystems. Old photos of these places show sunny, open and park-like cathedral stands of widely spaced large trees. Today these stands are choking on their own progeny. With water, nutrients, and space divided among many more individuals, the overall health of the forest has declined. These forests are more susceptible to disease and insects, and in some cases, to more intense burns than in the past.

art by Asante Riverwind

Catastrophic fires are not abnormal, but rather, are **ecologically important** parts of the landscape. Indeed, while hundreds of small fires reduce fuels over many parts of the landscape, most of the acreage burned in forest fires occurs in a few very large fires. These might only visit a particular site once every couple of hundred years, when conditions of prolonged drought, wind, fuel loading, and ignition all unite to set the stage for significant fires. Large fires are not disasters, nor do they "damage" the land. Rather, they are an essential part of the ecological setting that no amount of suppression can ultimately prevent, nor should we want to.

Frequent fires have many ecological benefits for soil and plant fertility. Over much of the Pacific Northwest, wet winters are followed by predictable summer drought. Thus, the time of year when it's warmest and most conducive to bacterial and fungal decomposition, moisture is limited, and rapid decomposition of litter is precluded. There is usually only a short period of the year during the spring months when soils are both moist enough and warm enough to provide decomposing organisms the proper environment for composting litter. Without fires, dead material accumulates, locking up essential nutrients necessary for plant growth. Fires release these nutrients, and enhance the production of nitrogen-fixing plants that often revegetate recently burned areas. Fires are thus analogous to river floods which each year provide a new layer of life-giving soil for plant growth.

Fires also cleanse forests. Many tree pathogens are killed just by the smoke. In addition, insects and diseases are directly reduced by fires. Once a fire has burned through a forest, especially if it is a cool, slow burning fire, the younger trees are thinned out while leaving behind the more mature individuals. Some species like the Ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, Western larch, Jeffrey pine, and Sequoia are specifically adapted to survive fires by having a thick bark and tall limbless trunks which protect them from small, quick burns. These survivors experience increased viability due to reduced competition for nutrients, light and water. Hence their ability to resist forest insects and disease is increased. The increased occurrence of pine beetle, spruce budworm, and other forest pathogens we see today are the direct result of fire suppression which has weakened the overall ability of trees to resist infestation.

The public pays three ways for this policy of fire suppression. First, we pay the high cost of fire fighting, which is frequently the highest budgetary expenditure of public land agencies. One big fire will often cost five to ten million dollars for suppression Think of how much better it would be to spend the millions of dollars it costs to suppress fires each summer on endangered species research or the acquisition of private lands which hold important wildlife habitat. Fire research has shown that, in additions to being expensive, fire fighting frequently has nothing to do with putting out the fire. Fires usually don't stop until the weather changes or the fire encounters another recent burn and runs out of fuel. In essence, we often throw money away at fires just so we have the appearance of doing something. For example, the Forest Service spent over $10 million attempting to suppress the Warner Creek Fire, yet it burned uncontrolled until the first snowfall of the season.

Second, we pay for the below-cost sales which result when the agencies attempt to correct the ecological imbalances they have created. For example, after factoring in the suppression and EIS publication costs (ostensibly to "save" the trees for northern spotted owls) the Warner salvage sales will result in an unprecedented $9 million deficit timber sale on the Willamette National Forest!

continued page 4

Cascadia's ancient forests have been heavily targeted by arsonists, and this criminal activity has been richly rewarded with salvage sales. Cascadia Earth First! has been fanning the flames of outrage and resistance to these arson-for-timber salvage scams through our unflagging defense of the wild Warner Creek Fire area. This roadless, spotted owl reserve has been our catalyst for learning about Cascadia's fire ecology and the agency's opportunistic fire policies.

NOT ONE BLACK STICK TO THE BASTARDS!

Fighting Forests With Fire: A So

by Timothy Ingalsbee

For nearly a century the Forest Service has been waging war on the Wild. The war metaphor aptly describes the agency's ideology and methodology of fighting forest fires. The Forest Service has built up the largest, most technologically-advanced, most expensive firefighting organization in the world. Agency managers command a vast army of firefighters, an armada of vehicles (e.g. "tankers" and "bombers"), and arsenals of tools and equipment using trench-warfare tactics to "fight" fires and to "keep forests green." Yet the policy to suppress the forest's wild fire is a search-and-destroy mission to extinguish the natural *greenfire* that restores and regenerates all native forests. Fighting fire, the Forest Service is literally at war with Nature.

After fifty years of Smokey Bear propaganda, it seems almost instinctual that we humans should fight forest fires. The media reinforces our subconscious fears of fire, for they always villify wildfires as disasters and catastrophes, an evil enemy which kills trees and destroys forests. On the other hand, the media valorizes firefighters as tough, brave, patriotic heroes defending the Nation's forests by "battling" blazes and "fighting" fires.

The media loves a good war, and buys into the agency's militarization of fire management. The whole Western Enlightenment Conquest of Nature paradigm is played out to the fullest; meanwhile, the institutional and ideological causes of the conflict—the greed, arrogance, and power-hunger of Forest Service managers and their corporate clientele—are obscurred. But as the 1994 fire season enters the record books as the most deadly and destructive season in memory, we should ask ourselves, what does it mean to be eternally at war with Nature?

The Forest Service has big stakes in the perpetuation of the war. The agency reaps significant political and financial rewards from fighting forest fires. Forest managers tap into a huge emergency firefighting fund in Washington D.C., and have almost unlimited access to the public's money to "put out" a fire. Subsequent salvage logging sales are additional losses to the public's economic and ecological treasury: private timber companies can buy scorched trees at "fire sale" prices, and the individual National Forest can keep all the timber receipts. Firefighting costs are thus not expenditures, but investments that offer big revenues to government and business.

Firefighting has become a big business, and business is booming. Nearly $1 million (tax dollars) a day are spent on the average large fire. Now, private entrepeneurs and corporations want a bigger piece of this racket. A growing "fire-dependent" business clientele has emerged, from contract firefighting crews to local merchants and official government suppliers, all reaping windfall profits on the taxpayers' till. The agency will not stop fighting fire because there are too many war profiteers with interests at stake—and too many bored bureaucrats getting their thrills playing with unlimited budgets while assuming a military mode of authority. A new face of the Corporate State's military-industrial complex has developed around the Forest Service and its war on wildfire. And like all other war-related enterprises, the taxpayers make hardly a fuss about how the government spends their money.

I am a veteran and survivor of this war. I began fighting fires 15 years ago as an eager and idealistic footsoldier, for it was more than a job—it was an adventure! In North Cascades National Park, I have cut fireline in country so high that I could stare into the blue crevasses of glaciers plunging from the ridgeline straight across the valley. In the River of No Return Wilderness, I have cut fireline in country so deep down the steep Salmon River Canyon that the smoke-filled sky blazed crimson red for hours after dawn, until the sun topped the ridge. In the North Kalmiopsis Roadless Area, I was paid to hike and camp in places few two-leggeds (other than Sasquatch) rarely see. I've been blessed with these and many more adventures, and witnessed some awesome displays of Nature's power when a forest is afire.

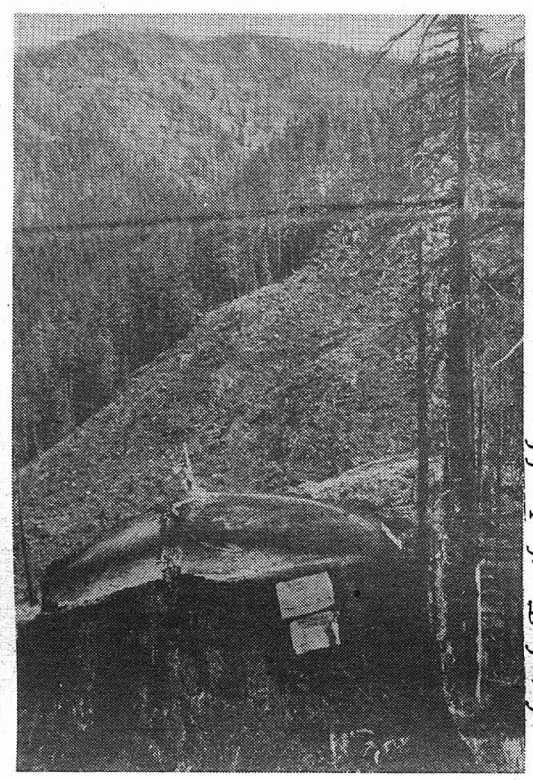


photo by Timothy Ingalsbee

Planned contiguous clearcutting in Warner Creek's HCA/LSR

I loved the income of firefighting, too. It felt like good pay for good, hard work. The pride I felt about my job was like that of a professional soldier for the Earth, an "eco-defender," if you will. Most of my fellow firefighters, however, had the same mentality as mercenaries, and were willing to do almost anything to get those fat paychecks. I was not immune to the "gold fever" that afflicts firefighters, either. "There's green where there's black," we used to say to ourselves, thinking deliriously about our future paychecks while toiling away in working conditions that violate EPA and OSHA rules for every other industrial occupation. It is scary for me to realize how well the wage-slavery system of delayed gratification sustained me through many hellish assignments.

In the midst of fulfilling my eco-defender fantasies, I adopted much of the militaristic mentality that pervades firefighting. Operations are organized under an extremely hierarchical, military-style chain of command. I have seen weak, incompetent, uncharismatic technocrats who rarely get out of the office, swell up with the arrogance of military generals when they assumed a position of power on the pecking order of fire bosses. They often forced firefighters—most of whom were a lot stronger and smarter but of a lower bureaucratic rank—to do all kinds of stupid, futile tasks for no other reason than the sheer delight of exercising their power.

If you are a grunt, your job is to follow orders, period. You dig a line, stand in line, hurry up and wait, or work your ass off according to the orders of your superiors. Your crewboss and foreman tell you when and where to eat, sleep, and shit. I tended to follow my orders with gusto and few gripes, and earned superior evaluations (but no medals) for my combat service. It is scary for me to look back now and see how years of playing with G.I. Joe dolls, and psychological training in school athletics, conditioned me with the ability to ignore my own anarchist instincts, pacifist principles, and anti-imperialist politics, and willingly enlist as a grunt in Uncle Sam's firefighting army. Now I deeply regret doing the many aweful damn-stupid, dangerous, and destructive things that go on in firefighting.

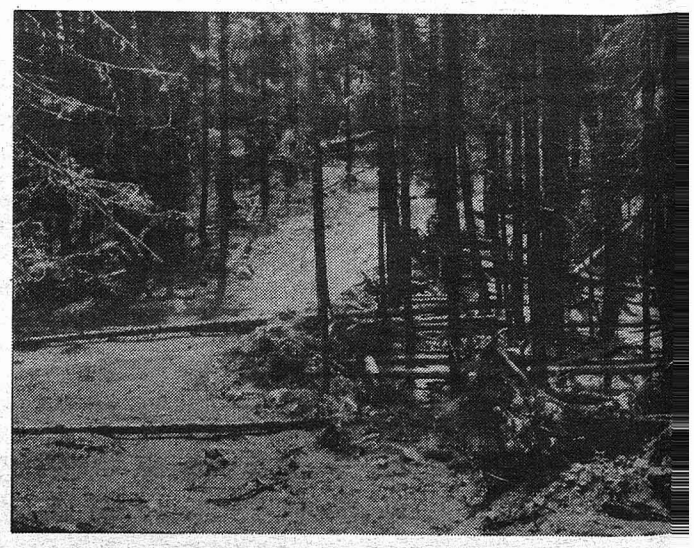
Of the many "war crimes" I am ashamed to have participated in, one stands out: the deliberate torching of scenic Sherman Pass on the Colville National Forest. Working on the White Mountain Complex Fire in 1988, we were ordered by a Type II ("second stringer") Incident Commander to set a huge backfire along Highway 20. Although those of us on the ground knew that the conditions were not right that night, we "just followed orders" and lit the woods anyway. The fire jumped the highway and surged into pristine, unburned ancient forest.

We spent a desperate, terror-filled night trying to chase down the firestorm we had created. The next morning, the scene of devastation along the roadway was astounding. Hundreds of burnt trees had fallen across the road, and the intense heat of the blaze had destroyed the guardrail, leaving the metal twisted and blackened. The highway was closed for more than a week as trees continued to fall. The agency's top fire bosses were forced to take over command of the firefighting operations in order to pacify an outraged local populace. The White Mountain Complex was renamed the Sherman Fire, not only because a brand new human-caused wildfire had been created at the top of Sherman Pass, but also, perhaps, because it appeared that we were using the same "Civil" War tactics as Sherman's March to the Sea. The Forest Service later completed the destruction of this place by salvage logging this and other places where we had set backburns. Now, large black stumps line Highway 20's new "ob-scenic" corridor.

Though we are called "fire" fighters, rarely do we ever directly attack flames. Instead, we normally do "indirect attack" on the "fuels" (forest vegetation and soil), and ironically, fire is our prime tool. We cut and burn trees along every foot of fireline, and aim for 100% consumption of the understory vegetation. In fact, a significant portion of the burned acreage on every forest fire comes directly from the hands of firefighters. We essentially fight fire with fire, and cheerily chant the "mopshot" mantra, "First we light 'em, then we fight 'em," as we put our torches to the greenery. It has gotten to the point that we should be renamed "fire-**lighters**," because that is what we are doing, firelighting not firefighting.

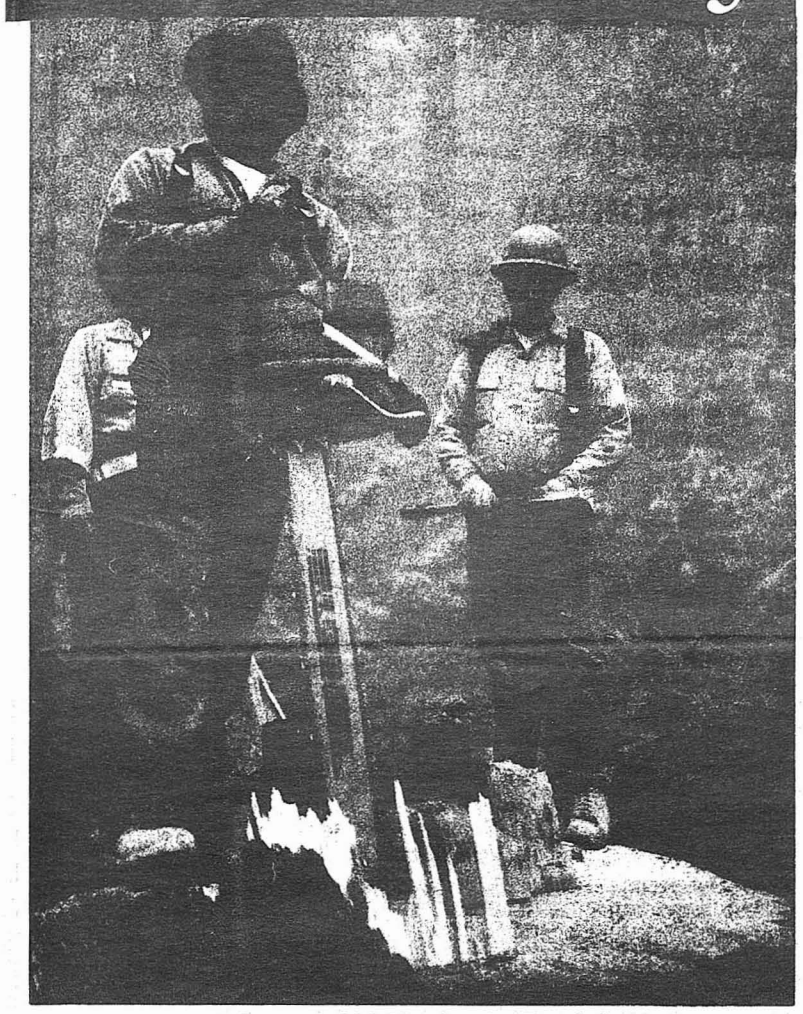
I have come to suspect that timber beasts working as fire bosses are using firefighters to chart out new logging sites under the smokescreen of wildfire emergencies. Some of the huge backfires and aggressive burnouts we set—far away from the main fire, and far in excess of safety or suppression needs—also created large, profitable salvage logging units. As a matter of policy, every fire in the agency's designated "general forest" zone is salvage logged—and the bigger the fire, the bigger the salvage sale! It has saddened and angered me to learn how many wild places me and my crewmembers worked our butts off to save—like the North Kalmiopsis Roadless Area, like Yellowstone National Park!—were salvage logged. The public should quickly dispel themselves of the myth that firefighting saves trees—they are "saved" only for the salvage saws. Perhaps we should ask the agency why it needs to spend millions of tax dollars "fighting" forest fires if it intends to log off the trees anyway.

The truth is we don't fight fires, we fight the forest. For all the abuse we do to the trees—before, during, and after a wildfire—perhaps we should be called "**fir**-fighters." In fact, we fell many trees cutting fireline. First we cut the young ones to make our fuelbreaks, then after burning out the fireline, we cut the old ones. After line cutting is completed, the tree cutting continues during "mop-up." This is the period where firefighters confront only smoldering embers and hotspots after a flame front has passed through. Some of the most valuable wildlife trees in the forest—the giant Douglas-fir broken-tops and snags, hollowed with the former homes of bats, squirrels, and owls—are usually ignited from our backburns and burnouts. For the sake of "safety" and suppression, these giant trees are systematically dropped to the ground



dozerline "road" in Cornpatch Roadless Area

oldier's Story



Loggers??? No, they're Firefighters on the Warner Creek fireline!!!

by bored firefighters doing the bidding of their bosses. We fir-fighters (sic) on the firelines are thus on the frontlines of forest destruction, truly "eco-warriors" in a war against the forest...And the war goes on, from battle to battle, without end.

THE TRAGIC DEATHS OF THE FIREFIGHTERS ON STORM KING MOUNTAIN in Colorado has shocked the nation into awareness that the war on wildfire is not without its human casualties. As in every war, it is always the young who are sent to fight and die. This tragedy has severely shaken the normal arrogance and insularity of Forest Service fire generals, for the women and men who died on the mountain came from the most elite kinds of fire crews the agency commands. The Forest Service has been scrambling to reassure the public that its firefighting strategies and tactics are safe and sound. To that end, the agency cynically blamed the victims for their own deaths, claiming that the firefighters' own "can do" attitudes made them take unnecessary risks in the face of known hazards. This belies the fact that the put-the-fire-out/get-the-cut-out "can do" attitude originates at the top echelons of the agency, and is handed down the chain of command. Do not be surprised if the massive new salvage and thinning projects coming ahead are presented as "fire protection" plans to facilitate "firefighter safety" as well as "forest health." Do not be shocked if the agency shamelessly uses the tragedy to scare the public into supporting its aggressive new logging proposals.

AS THE CORPORATE STATE'S WAR MACHINE CONTINUES TO SPIN on a treadmill of its own making, the power-mongering and profiteering that feed this unnecessary and unwinnable war are never addressed. This winter, however, the agency's elite managers will be evaluating firefighting policies and procedures. Now is the time that the American People end the government's war against wildfire. Fire suppression and salvage are ravaging and pillaging the forest. There are alternative, "light-hand" or minimal-impact techniques for suppressing fires' severity that does not sacrifice the trees. We must reject the State's militarization of fire management, its warlike campaign to "fight" fires, and its scorched Earth tactics of firefighting. We must make peace with the planet, relearn to live with the Wild, and stop the eco-war. Now!

photo by Timothy Ingalsbee

Light it, Fight it, Log it: The Warner Creek Fire

The Warner Creek Fire ('91), the Warner Fire Recovery Project ('91-'93), and (surprise!) the Warner Salvage Sale ('94?) provide a case study for the Forest Service's new *modus operandi* for salvage scams under Option 9. The agency's "forest health means fuel reduction for fire protection" ideology was developed on the Warner Project, and will be applied to the massive thinning and salvage logging schemes planned for native forests throughout the West. In short, this sinister ploy is the system of Light it, Fight it, and Log it.

LIGHT IT: We might never have known the truth that the Warner Creek Fire was started by arsonists if Forest Service law enforcement officers had not blurted out to the press details about the fire's origins. They stated that the fire was definitely intentionally-set, that the agency had numerous leads and physical evidence (i.e. incendiary devices), and that several fires had been set in the area over a 48 hour span. The officers further stated the agency suspected the Warner Creek Fire was started by the same arsonists who had been torching Eastside forests the previous four years. Indeed, there was not a moment's doubt that the Warner Creek Fire was ignited by arsonists.

After timber industry representatives fumed that "there was no evidence" that Warner Creek was started by arsonists, the Willamette Forest Supervisor made bizarre, absurd attempts to cover up the crime. First, he charged his public relations staff to call Warner Creek a "suspicious human-caused fire" (the agency's standard euphemism for arson). Second, he ordered that arson be excluded from the EIS analysis despite widespread public demand for it to be included as a significant issue. Third, he authorized false and deceptive language on the fire's origin to be published in the Draft EIS even though the fire investigator's final report had been handed to him three months earlier. This report stated conclusively that the Warner Creek fire was ignited by arsonists.

photo by Timothy Ingalsbee

OVERKILL: Marking Warner Creek's ridgetop clearcuts

It was a full 14 months after the Warner Creek fire had been lit that the Supervisor was forced, under intense public pressure, to reveal the truth. He now claims that the fire's origin is irrelevant to his decision to salvage log. Meanwhile, arsonists continue to prey on Cascadia's forests, starting several arson fires this summer. Truth is the first casualty in warfare—and in wildfire—when the agency covers for arsonists.

FIGHT IT: Many environmental abuses occurred while fighting the Warner Creek Fire. Nearly eleven miles of dozerlines were carved into the Cornpatch Roadless Area. One of these new "cat" roads runs over a mile in length a mere fifty feet parallel to the Bunchgrass Ridge hiking trail. The agency's alleged reason for making a new cat-road instead of using the existing hiking trail for a fireline was its concern not to disturb archaeological sites along the trail corridor. Indeed, over 30 new sites were discovered after the fire. Nevertheless, proposed salvage units are now located on the ridgetop—one of these new clearcuts will be a half mile in length! **(see photo p.3)**—and logging will impact at least 7,800 feet of the trail. The dozerlines were never rehabilitated by the agency; hence, hundreds of trees lie "jackstrawed" where the bulldozer heaved them to the side **(see photo p.2)**, creating a hideous visual scar and a severe fire hazard in the event of a reburn.

Firefighters were responsible for burning several thousand acres--an estimated 35% of the total burned acreage--in huge burnout and backfire operations. Essentially, from start to finish, ***the Warner Creek Fire was an ongoing arson fire***. Firefighters had to pour hundreds of gallons of diesel fuel on the moist, moss-covered ground to get some of these burns going. Some of these areas are now beautiful underburned green stands. Other areas burned hot; for example, along the ridgetop dozerline. Firefighters cut hundreds of trees when the flames from their burnout started to "candlestick" **(see logger photo p.3)**. Some of the areas deliberately burned by firefighters are now proposed salvage units! We must hold the agency's fire bosses accountable for their pyromaniacal actions.

LOG IT: Firefighters regularly had to do "the Three O' Clock Boogie," retreating from the firelines in the afternoon when the fire burned hottest. The areas that were most dangerous to fight fire were near existing plantations, where the dense thickets of even-aged "reprod" hurled the flames into adjacent old-growth canopies. These scorched old-growth stands are the very areas targeted for salvage logging. Like taking a jigsaw puzzle apart, piece by piece, the agency plans to add new clearcuts next to their old clearcuts, using stumps to mark the salvage unit boundaries **(see photo p.2)**.

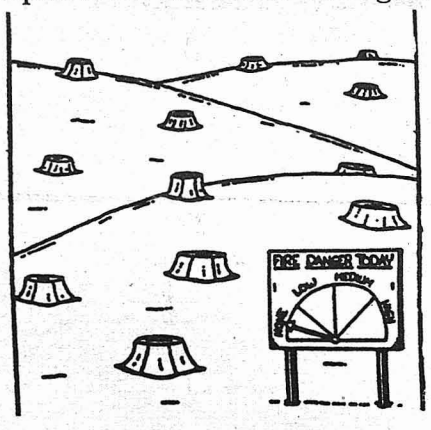
The agency's rationale for clearcutting is to reduce fuel loads and to facilitate efficient fireline construction. Yet, the 28 plantations that were vaporized by the Warner Creek Fire had all been roaded, clearcut and slashburned. These "fuel reduction" activities did nothing to slow the flames, nor could firelines be safely built in them. The agency now plans to replicate this failed method of "fire protection" with an estimated **200 new clearcuts** targeting the largest fire-killed trees, while ignoring the real fire hazards, the dead "dog-hair" thickets of flashy and ladder ground fuels.

Warner Creek has revealed the agency's new "ecosystems management" scheme of mimicking catastrophic fire disturbance to prevent catastrophic fire disturbance. It openly admits that it is "trading off" current and future owl habitat quality for its ability to fight wildfires. The agency has in fact defined spotted owl habitat recovery in terms of fire control. We need to be aware that the same twisted logic behind logging Warner Creek's most valuable wildlife trees to prevent them from re-burning will be applied systematically throughout the burned forests of the West.

WARNER IS A WARNING TO FOREST ACTIVISTS EVERYWHERE! BEWARE OF A LIGHT IT/FIGHT IT/ LOG IT SCHEME COMING TO A FOREST NEAR YOU!!!

Get Fired Up!

Hey Kids, think Option 9 sucks? Think lifting the injunction was a dumb idea? Well, we ain't seen nothin yet! Remember how the media hyped all these fires burning this summer? Well, start drawing clearcut boundaries on your hiking map, 'cause that's what the Freddies are doing right now! Jack Ward Thomas is extolling the virtues of "fireproofing" the forest by thinning green stands and salvaging black stands, expedited by suspension of environmental review. From the Wild Rockies to Cascadia, under the guise of "forest health," thinning and salvage will be the burning issues of our time. We need to educate ourselves about this issue and prepare for the oncoming infestations of deadly timber maggots leeching off these burned and newly re-covered stands. Get involved!! Research local fires, pay attention to location and cause of the burns, and participate in the planning process. We must subvert Freddie propaganda by speaking out to the public, newsmedia, students, etc. The real threat to forest health comes not from wildfire, but from arrogant attempts by Parasitic Politicians, Freddie Bureaufats and Corporate eco-Raiders to "manage it."



Benefits of Salvage Clearcutting

For three years Cascadia Earth Firstlers have been fending off the Freddies' attempts to salvage log Warner Creek. See articles in past EF! Journals for the gory details (Yule '92; Mabon '93, Samhain '93, Eostar '94, and Litha '94). Three years after the fire went out, NOT ONE BLACK STICK has been "salvaged" from Warner Creek! But the struggle continues... the Freddies are still busy marking clearcut units and planning for this "harvest." Stay tuned to the Journal for updates. The carnivorous appetites of the timber beasts get bigger and meaner in the winter, and we may be looking at snowmobile logging! So don your mittens, you naughty kittens, and see you at Warner Creek!

photo by Elizabeth Feryl

WARNER CREEK ACTION: puppet-masters ex-Chief Robertson, Supervisor Kenops, and the illustrious Senator Packwood oversee an unkown arsonist torching the Warner Creek DEIS

The Cascadia Fire Ecology Education Project is assembling *an alternative FEIS: the Fire Ecology Interpretive Sourcebook*, a practical handbook for activists to raise fire issues in F.S. management activities. It will be a collection of writings on the topic of forest fires, fire ecology, and activism. We're looking for a wide range of voices and perspectives on fire, from scientific to artistic sources of knowledge/wisdom such as poetry, kids' art, photos, research papers, dreams, stories/lore, etc. This will be useful for activists to organize against the onslaught of fire-salvage scams and the ongoing War against the Wild. It's a direct counter to the Freddies' FEIS (Final Environmental Impact Statement), which is a thinly-veiled cost/benefit analysis, documenting how much damage they can afford to get away with! We reject this rationale, as well as the greedy, patriarchal, earth-destroying paradigm from which it emerged! Help us re-vision a world in harmony with Nature's ways as we re-think our relationship with wildfire! Send submissions by 12/94 to: CFEEP, PO 3563, Eugene,OR 97403
And of course, we're a small group with limited funds, so donations are always greatly appreciated.

UPCOMING EVENTS: The Wilderness Society will be holding forest monitoring/fire ecology workshops in the PNW: Snoqualmie Pass, WA [Oct. 1-2], Hoopa Indian Res., CA [Oct. 8-9], Roseburg, OR [Oct. 15-16], and Sandy, OR [Oct. 29-30] . Contact: (206) 624-6430. Folks from CFEEP will share fire ecology knowledge and experience in paper-wrenching the EIS process.

Smokey's Legacy Continued...

Third, because many of these proposed logging sales are in presently roadless, wild areas, we lose these precious wilderness resources. We do not need to cut down Habitat Conservation Areas and Late-Succession Reserves, such as Warner Creek's native forest, to "protect" it from future wildfires. All we need to do is let natural fires burn.

Although many agencies are now experimenting with prescribed burns, their practices have several shortcomings. In the past, before fire suppression, the total acreage burned each summer in the western U.S. was in the **millions** of acres. Today, most prescribed burns are too small. Furthermore, most prescribed burns are set when the forests are moist, usually in the spring. Under natural conditions fires burn in the drier months. Small mammals, birds, etc. have usually completed breeding by the time natural fire seasons begin. But human-induced prescribed burns occur at a time when wildlife is less able to cope with a fire, with an attendent cost in life not usually associated with wildfires. Smokey lied. Studies have shown that under natural fire conditions, few wildlife species or individuals are hurt. They simply fly, walk or burrow away from the flames.

Art by Whaley Mander

The problem with our fire policy is that we are not emulating natural systems. An analogy would be cutting off a leg from a table and expecting it to still stand upright. In cutting out natural fires, we have cut off a leg of the table. We continue to expend energy in the form of fire fighting, below-cost timber sales, etc. to hold up this table or ecosystem which wants to fall over. As more litter accumulates, the heavier the load piled on the table becomes and the more energy we must expend to keep it from falling over.

The western U.S. is sitting on a powderkeg. One of these summers the West will burn down. Fuel loading is so high, a fire-storm of incredible proportions will overwhelm our suppression capabilities. We also face greater possibilities of loss of human life and property as people continue to build houses in forested areas. This is analogous to building on the flood plain of a river. Sooner or later you pay the consequences. Communities have not recognized this problem and thus have not faced it with zoning restrictions.

What needs to be done? To begin, we must realize that fires are a natural and a needed part of our environment. Instead of spending money to put out fires everywhere they occur, we need a massive public education program to promote the merits of fire. We should replace statements like "a forest fire DAMAGED 100 acres of land today" with statements like "a forest fire CREATED 100 acres of new wildlife habitat and fire break today." Fire fighters, instead of being viewed as heroes, should be called what they are: money grubbing mercenaries out to kill fires. **Fires have as much right to exist as grizzlies and wolves.** Just as predator control has upset natural balances, fire control has had the same consequences. We must come to the realization that fire suppression, except in specific locations needed to protect human habitation and life, is a direct affront to the ecological balance of this continent. Smokey the Bear policies have done more to destroy the wildlife habitat and forest health of the western U.S. than any other human intrusion.

Many foresters and politicians argue that the decline in the forest's ecological health should be dealt with by surgery—"salvage" logging they call it. But logging a burned area like Warner Creek would be a grievous ecological affront. Fires are, like disease and insects, natural processes in forest ecosystems. We should not think of a forest as "recovering" from a fire, and hence, we do not need to fix such landscapes. Forests do not need to recover from a burn—they can only recover from abnormal or unusual events like timber harvests. Do not confuse forestry—which is an economic activity—with forest ecology. Never forget that foresters are trained to manipulate forests, not understand them.

I hesitate to prescribe any management options other than allowing Nature to reach whatever equilibrium or disequilibrium it chooses. On the whole, the best policy we could follow is to let Nature take its course. Protect our dwellings and human life when necessary, but let the bulk of the forests live and die from insects, disease, and even catastrophic fire. We can never emulate natural forests, and it is pure arrogance to assume that we know enough about how a forest works to presume that we can "manage" it at all.

This is an edited and updated article that first appeared in the Brigid 1986 issue of the Earth First! Journal.

This issue of WILDFIRE™ was put together by Catia Juliana and Timothy Ingalsbee of the Cascadia Fire Ecology Education Project. Much thanks to Michael Om, Stephanie Penn, and the folks at the EF! J house for support.

Dear Miss Demeanor

Dear Miss Demeanor,

I have an embarrassing problem. I've tried talking to other people about my problem, but it is a very difficult subject to talk about. I am an activist with a very weak bladder. I find myself having to urinate at the most inappropriate times.

Recently, at a large demonstration in Spring City, Tennessee, my bladder began complaining along with 200 other protesters. I was chained to some barrels when I felt the urge to pee. After I unhooked myself from the 400-pound barrels four doughnut-loving fascists carried me to a police car. My bladder was screaming by this time. The pressure was unbearable! The pigs shoved me into the car and I almost wee-weed in my britches. As they walked away to illegally arrest many other non-violent protesters, I decided I couldn't hold it any longer. I ripped the back of my rad suit, pulled down my pants, and pissed all over the floor of the cop car. As I was urinating I had visions of pissing all over "Deputy Bubba's" head. A smile broke across my face, and I began laughing hysterically. Spraying the pigs car with my golden showers gave me some sort of satisfaction. Miss D, what I'm wondering is if I should feel guilty about pissing in the nice, clean police car, or should I take pleasure in my piss?

—To Pee or not to Pee
Somewhere in Katuah

Dear To Pee or not to Pee,

Guilt has no place in the eco-activist's repertoire. Worry not—you were merely going with the flow.

Miss Demeanor is Real!

Contrary to popular belief, Miss Demeanor does indeed need letters to respond to. In fact she is a real person who's smart enough to not be on the *Journal* Collective. If you have any questions for Miss Demeanor do not hesitate to write her.

Address your letters to:
Dear Miss Demeanor
Earth First! Journal
POB 1415, Eugene, OR 97440

Sierra Club Reform

continued from front page

several billion board feet of Pacific Northwest old-growth from public lands. Most recently Club Management helped pass the infamous Montana Wilderness Destruction Act through the House. The Congressional Research Service recently reported that this bill would preclude judicial review of the wilderness suitability determinations in the existing Montana forest plans, and that it could prohibit all forms of protection, mandating development of 4 million acres of roadless areas. Fortunately, this bill seems to be dead for this session.

A few years ago, a national group of Sierra Club members, who were sick and tired of Sierra Club Management's support for industry bills, formed the John Muir Society in an attempt to wrestle control of the Club away from Management. Last year, we succeeded in getting one of our own elected to the Board. We also raised enough signatures, through the Club's initiative process, to put an initiative on the Club's ballot that would have changed the Club's forest policy to one that advocates an end to logging on all public lands. Management, fearful that it might pass, held a closed-session meeting in November of 1993 to figure out how it could rig the ballot. The result was a ballot question worded so that members had to vote "no" to vote in favor of the new policy. A false "Summary of Existing Forest Policy" was also placed on the ballot to mislead voters. Several election complaints were filed, including one by former Executive Director David Brower. All were ignored.

The front person for the forest initiative sent out an electronic mail (e-mail) message to all users of Sierra Club e-mail (about 1000 Sierra Club leaders and activists) to inform Club activists about the deliberately unfair election procedures. He was threatened with revocation of his Club e-mail access if he ever again tried to blow the whistle on Club Management. Another member commented that Club Management's actions may be illegal. He too was threatened. One activist was ordered, in writing, not to talk to the press.

While the ballots were still being mailed in, Club Management violated the very policy that it claimed to uphold on the ballot. This violation occurred when Club Management supported the Montana Wilderness Destruction Act, which directly contradicted the Club policy that calls for an immediate end to logging in all roadless areas. A whistleblower used Club e-mail to alert other members of this breach. This time, the former president and the current executive director sent out a joint message threatening a $50 fine against the local Club group of anyone who did this again (i.e. cut into the budget of the whistleblower's local group to turn the whistleblower's friends against her or him).

Despite the confusing and misleading ballot, and the unanimous opposition of the Board, over 41% of the voting members voted for the zero-cut policy. But it was not quite enough. Probably in order to avoid a lawsuit, Club Management promised a new and improved Club—a Club that would, for once, reflect the views of the members and activists. Club Management calls this effort "Project Renewal"—the mission of which is to "reinvent" the Sierra Club (sound a bit like the Forest Service's "Reinvention" process?). From the resulting "Restructuring Report" have sprung the following monstrosities: 1) a policy on Club electronic mail communications which would give Management the power to revoke the e-mail access of whistleblowers (management has declared that statements such as, "The Board is trying to subvert democracy," would result in e-mail revocation); and 2) a proposal that will authorize the Board to stack itself with at least two—and as many as nine—appointees (currently all directors are directly elected by the general membership). Management is poised to pass these proposals at its next meeting in late September '94. Meanwhile, Management has been completely unwilling to enact any of the fair election procedures proposed by John Muir Society members. It seems that they are preparing to rig next year's election, too.

Club Management's behavior regarding Rangeland Reform '94 is a perfect example of the subversion of democracy that goes on routinely in the Sierra Club. One of the alternatives proposed by the government is Alternative 5—the "no grazing alternative." It is by far the strongest alternative environmentally, as it would reduce grazing on Western public lands by about 90% (Alt. 4 would reduce grazing by only 31%). The John Muir Society has been trying to get Club Management to support a true no grazing alternative, which would end 100% of public lands livestock grazing.

The head of the Club's grazing subcommittee has told us that she alone will make the decision on which alternative the Club will support; and she alone will send in the Club's comments. She has refused to allow her committee to vote on it. She has refused to share her draft comments with John Muir Society members. She did tell us, however, that the Club will not be supporting Alt. 5 because, according to her, the Club's grazing policy prohibits such a strong stance. Essentially she is arguing that Club policy requires the Club to advocate public lands grazing—and lots of it. Of course this is ridiculous. There is nothing in the Club's grazing policy which prohibits a no grazing stance. We appealed to the acting chair of the committee but he backed the subcommittee chair and would not allow a vote of the full Committee.

Several Club members, including two Board members, and David Brower, appealed to the next level: the Conservation Coordinating Committee (CCC). The CCC unanimously upheld the subcommittee chair. We then appealed to the Executive Committee of the Board. The ExCom unanimously rubber-stamped the subcommittee chair's position, stating that the Club is prohibited from even considering Alt. 5 or a no grazing alternative. Sierra Club President Robbie Cox said that reversing the subcommittee chair would be "dangerously *anti-democratic*" (emphasis in original). This is the kind of tyranny and doublespeak that is perpetrated on a daily basis by Sierra Club Management. Club policy is repeatedly misused in order to justify support for industry bills and opposition to strong, visionary environmental legislation.

Very recently, the Forest Service conducted a random national poll which yielded some interesting results. The Forest Service did not release these results publicly. You must ask specifically for "Section 3 Appendix to Appendix D of the Architecture for Change document." One of the results showed that most US residents believe that resource extraction is not appropriate on public lands—period. So, in other words, Sierra Club Management is not only far behind the rest of the environmental movement, but it is also far behind the current views of the general public.

Sierra Club Management is a 16-ton weight around the neck of every self-respecting environmental activist—regardless of organizational affiliation—and is probably the single biggest roadblock to meaningful protection and restoration of ecosystems. Their support for industry bills facilitates "greenwashing"—allowing industry to portray itself as environmentally progressive—and allows terrible bills to pass. At the same time, Club Management's opposition to strong, visionary environmental legislation keeps such bills from ever getting through Congress (or even introduced). Something must be done. *NOW*. Here are some things you can do to help throw the bums out:

1) Write a letter to the editor of your local paper slamming Club Management for its environmentally-destructive stances, its failure to take strong stands on environmental protection, and its deliberate violations of free speech and democracy within the Club. It is important to stress that you are criticizing the people at the top—most Club members are sympathetic to the goals of the John Muir Society, but do not know that they are being misrepresented by Management. Send letters to the editor of Sierra Magazine, 730 Polk St., SF, CA 94109, and/or write about it in other environmental newsletters.

2) Join the Sierra Club at the student/low income rate (only $15 dollars per year) so you can vote in Sierra Club elections and even run for office to help us reclaim control of our organization. In most chapters, if not all, members can collect a few signatures and run for chapter executive committee by petition. Membership also gives you a legal right to Sierra Club financial statements, membership lists, and other records (you have to pay the copying expenses, though). It's $15 well spent. Thanks.

Chad Hanson is the no-compromise Vice Chair of the Many Rivers Group of the Club's Oregon Chapter and a proud member of the John Muir Society.

Back In Dayton Again

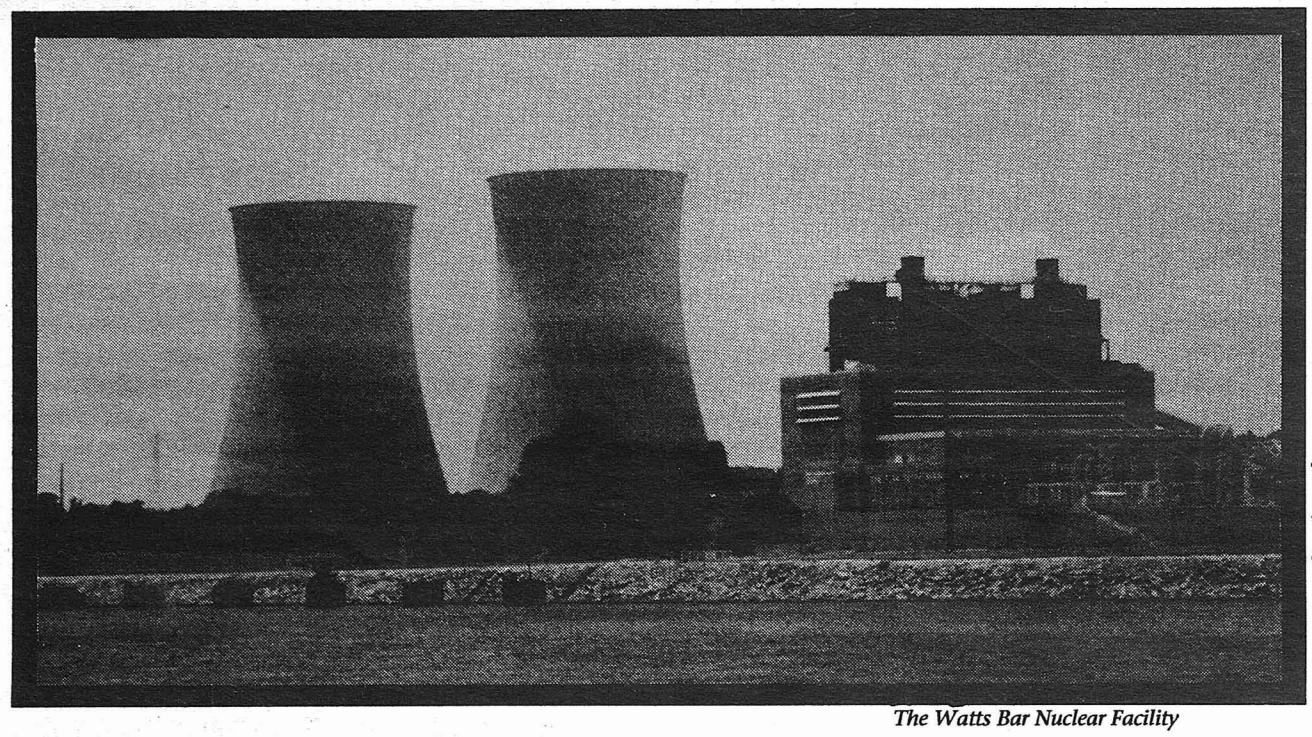


photo by Langelle/NFN

The Watts Bar Nuclear Facility

BY ANDREW

Lo and behold, we were back in Dayton again. After what we experienced during our last visits to Rhea County (see Lughnasadh issue of the *Journal*) we were unsure of what to expect. Would newly-re-elected Sheriff Leon Sneed meet us at the county line with armed thugs of deputized Neanderthals? Would the God-fearing residents of this Christian county encircle us with their crosses and holy books, expel the demons possessing our souls, and send us to the Lords Holy Land? Fortunately, we made quite a peaceful drive through town to the famous courthouse where evolution was defeated in the Scopes Monkey Trial.

Between 25-30 of us arrived at 9 a.m. to meet with our attorney, John Eldridge, and the public defender to discuss our options and the order of the day's proceedings. Fifteen of the remaining 27 defendants were present. John explained to us that the plea bargain was still available and that those who did not take it would be bound over to the Grand Jury, which decides whether to take the case to trial or drop charges (unlike many other states, Tennessee passes every criminal case through a Grand Jury before it goes to trial).

At 9:30 we staged a press conference to entertain the press vultures with juicy bits of anti-TVA rhetoric and some tasty new info that once again calls into question the safety of the Watts Bar Nuclear Facility. It seems that on June 22 during a test run of the unit one reactor, a fireball erupted from an electrical board, injuring three people—one with second degree burns. "[The ensuing fire] knocked out power to part of the main control room, including control of two reactor pumps which, under certain conditions, are critical," said an article in the *Knoxville News Sentinel* on August 7. The really creepy thing about this accident was that TVA did not mention it until July 27. Not even on July 15, when the media got a tour of the Watts Bar facility, was anything said about any fireball. TVA, who for the first time in its 50-year history is asking for public input on its decision making , shows its ugly head as an out of control bureaucracy with no democracy or respect for the health and public safety of those in the Tennessee Valley.

At 10 a.m. we entered the courtroom for our trial. District Attorney Will Dunn and Chief Deputy Byrd began to encourage the testifying officers to identify those in the courtroom. There were six they especially wanted to ID, the six they could not place on their video footage. The footage comes from local media coverage and the tape they say Andy Caffrey "left in a squad car," even though he continually asked them for it, filed a stolen item form, and has continued to try and recover it. We feel, and so does Andy, that they have stolen his tape and a lawsuit is pending.

When the judge entered the room his first announcement was "I am walking out that door at 4:00, you can do what you want." This caused our attorney to rush through the day's proceedings, as you would imagine.

When the trial finally began, the first motion was to do away with anybody who wished to take the plea bargain—a $25 fine and $148.50 in court costs. Four chose this route, leaving 23 defendants still facing charges, 11 of them present. Over all, 22 cases were bound over to the Grand Jury and one preliminary hearing was postponed until Sept. 21, when the testifying officer could be present. Sure is odd that cases are rescheduled when the pigs do not show, but when a defendant does not show a bench warrant is placed for that person's arrest. The U.S. justice system sure is wonderful.

Three cases had some really strange twists. No officer could provide enough evidence to convict the defendants. They were given two choices: have their cases dismissed or plead not guilty and pass the case over to the Grand Jury. The dismissal choice sounded too good to be true and it was; if the defendant chose to have her/his case dismissed the DA could resubmit the case to the Grand Jury, the defendant would be re-arrested, have to place another $1000 bond and still show up for the jury trial. Needless to say, the three chose to plead not guilty. Of the three, Anne Petermann's case was the best example of justice in Rhea County. When called to be tried, her charges were changed from criminal trespassing to disorderly conduct. An officer then took the stand, and testified under oath that she was arrested for creating a disturbance in the Rhea County Jail parking lot. When John Eldridge asked the officer how he knew it was her, he said he remembered her. The DA however, knew this was not the case. He quickly stopped testimony, escorted the officer from the courtroom and returned to say he had no evidence to convict her. Is this justice or what? No wonder evolution was defeated here in Rhea County.

After the hearing, John Eldridge talked with us about the future of the trial. He warned us to stay together on fighting this and not to get separated into groups. He offered to defend all 23 of us for a fee of $10,000, or about $500 apiece. His advice was to file a motion to get the trial moved to another county and that he would argue the case using a necessity plea. If we choose to accept John's offer we would also get the services of two other attorneys. On August 30 , when I last talked to him, he mentioned that he would like to get the money by the arraignment hearing on December 9. The other options at this point are to find another attorney, which I am looking into but cannot be responsible for, or to ask for a public defender. There are presently five other recommended attorneys who are being contacted but nothing is set in stone. If you are still facing charges for the Watts Bar action, contact the Watts Bar Legal Defense Fund (WBLDF) and let them know what you want to do.

The next step in the trial is the meeting of the Grand Jury on December 5. At this hearing the Grand Jury will examine the evidence they have and then make indictments. Some cases will be dropped at this point for a lack of evidence and the rest will receive indictments. On December 9 an arraignment hearing will be held where each defendant will be charged with a crime.

That brings us to a major part of this legal campaign: fundraising. If an attorney is taken we need to pay for her/him somehow. Anybody who is willing to help raise money to pay an attorney please contact the WBLDF. We are especially looking for people who are willing to coordinate fundraising in their area. The WBLDF will coordinate the southeast and Carla Racine will coordinate the northeast. You can contact her at (413) 253-3711. Thanks for all the good times that we had at the Round River Rendezvous and sitting in the Rhea County Jail. See all you crazy folks at the trial or at the northern California RRR. If you do come down for the trial we'll have a big-ole cockfight and some down home breastling to keep ya happy. Remember, Katuah Earth First! loves its family. The Earth First! family that is.

Watts Bar Legal Defense Fund POB 1391 Chattanooga, TN 37401; (615) 266-5841 (Andrew or Nik).

Don't forget to give TVA some hell through the mail. You can contact their Chairman, Cravin Crowell at :

Mr. Cravin Crowell, TVA Chairman, ET 12-K, 400 W Summit Hill, Knoxville, TN 37902.

Something Scary's Going On Here...
Watts Bar Action October 29

Since the Earth First! bandwagon landed on Watts Bar the media has been on a feeding frenzy looking for the latest article slamming TVA and their unsafe nuclear reactor. Not only has TVA been in the news with Watts Bar, but new information shows TVA has been avoiding a little law known as the Endangered Species Act (of particular concern is the dromedary pearly mussel, which has only a couple of known reproducing populations, one of which is in the Watts Bar area). It's high time we put the nail in the proverbial coffin and have another action. Wait, before you run away screaming "I can't afford to get arrested in Tennessee again, especially not in Rhea County," this action is legal. I think we have shown TVA that Watts Bar is vulnerable any time we plan to go there .

Katuah Earth First! and the Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC) are coordinating the action, so come on down. The action will be part of a weekend-long conference to discuss and plan future campaigns and actions against TVA and other regional threats. But the main focus is Watts Bar. We want that Unit 1 reactor to stop construction now, before it is too late. So gather up your favorite Halloween costume, your Al Gore masks and a truckload of three armed Tennesseans and come on down. We will have boxes of Florida Lemon grenades to show off to the armed TVA security guards. Remember, Watts Bar is a lemon.

For more info contact:

Katuah Earth First! POB 281 Chattanooga, TN 37401; (615) 624-3939 or SEAC, Center For Global Sustainability, Mary Anne Piene, POB 1101 Knoxville, TN 37916; (615) 524-4711.

Belt Woods Blasphemy

continued from page 1

forest. However, at the end, Belt's spirit comes back to prevent the housing development and urges the "good bishop," who supports environmental protection, to back words with deeds. Indianapolis TV stations used excerpts for the evening news, and the Episcopalians enjoyed the show. The only opponents were from Washington Cathedral, but they were goodnaturedly nasty in their claim that the Belt Woods, and its songbirds, could be "shared."

Other Belt Woods protests this year included leafletting at St. Barnabas Church, where the Belt family is buried (and rolling in their graves). The National Cathedral, home of the Washington Diocese, was picketed several times. We made banners with quotes from Church officials urging Episcopalians to be environmentally concerned and sang Darryl Cherney's "You Can't Clearcut Your Way to Heaven." Local TV news and the *Washington Post* gave us good coverage for our Palm Sunday protest. Numerous DC-area Episcopal Churches are also regularly leafletted to tell worshipers about the Diocese's actions.

On Earth Day this year, four people chained themselves to Bishop Ronald Haines' desk and played audio tapes of songbirds. (The Church declined to prosecute them.) Later that evening, Paul Winter performed an Earth Day concert at the Cathedral, where he dedicated a song to the woods and called for their protection.

In July, demonstrators from Maryland environmental groups and State Delegate Joan Pitkin went to Baltimore to protest the Mercantile-Safe Deposit and Trust Company, which is trustee for the Belt Woods. Mercantile helped the Church break the will, claiming insufficient income, and is currently assisting the Church to maximize the profit from dismembering Belt's donation. This was also well publicized on TV and in the *Baltimore Sun*.

History of Belt Woods

Belt's will endowed a trust with over $3 million to generate interest income for his local parish and to pay for maintaining the natural and cultural heritage of the most important part of his family's property, the Home Farm, which contains the "Belt Woods." Most importantly, Belt's Will "expressly prohibited and enjoined from selling" the Home Farm and its old-growth forest.

In 1976, the Washington Diocese, claiming insufficient income, succeeded in overturning Belt's Will in court, and started dismembering the trust. The Church reaped a $2 million financial windfall from the sale of other property within Belt's original gift of over 3,000 acres. In 1981, the Diocese logged much of the virgin forest, selling 563 ancient oaks and tulip poplars as luxury veneer for German corporate board rooms. Soon after, outraged environmentalists convinced the State of Maryland to buy 109 acres of the property (half of that is old growth, the other half is buffer area) for $628,545. It is now the Belt Woods Natural Environmental Area, a designated DNR "Wildland" (Wilderness). These "South Woods" contain most of the remaining old-growth, but it was an incomplete protection effort.

In 1991, Mercantile, the Washington Diocese and St. Barnabas announced a plan to transform the remaining 515 acres into 649 house lots. This partially-logged land is critical to maintaining the integrity of the remaining 50 acres of old-growth forest, and is itself critical habitat. House and road construction, storm water run-off and forest fragmentation would devastate most of the remaining interior forest that is vital for interior-dwelling birds who need dense tree canopies. Without the protection of a dense canopy, these species become prey to predatory birds and animals.

Clearcutting nearly half the trees in this critical songbird habitat would ruin its biological value. The remaining "islands of old growth"—with thin connecting corridors interrupted by asphalt streets—would have limited value for the songbirds, the officially endangered "Wister Coralroot" orchid, or other forest inhabitants. In addition, the influx of 2,000 people and their housecats would significantly threaten songbird survival. Due to cancer-like growth, Belt Woods is already an island of biodiversity in a sea of suburban sprawl—it is surrounded by an amusement park, a school, a housing development and other recent intrusions. Rather than more of the same, the fields and partially logged forest should become an old-growth restoration project once Belt Woods is saved from destruction.

Belt Woods: Save it or Pave it?

Bishop Haines' office emphasizes that the will was broken in a court of law on the grounds that it was "impracticable of literal performance." They claim that, although you "may not agree with this decision, it has none the less been rendered and is legal."

But is it moral? The wishes of Seton Belt to both benefit charity and preserve the Woods could be honored if the land is transferred to a conservancy at farm and forest value. The Will, therefore, is not "impracticable." So far, the Diocese has held out for maximum profit—which of course will be tax-exempt.

A coalition of local residents and environmentalists have pressured the County to provide some money toward purchasing the remaining tracts of Belt Woods. Private money from the Western Shore Conservancy and other groups has also been raised. While it would be nice for a public- private partnership to rescue the woods from the bulldozers, the Church should donate the land for preservation. Larry Bohlen, Maryland Sierra Club Conservation Chair, states "the bishop and the bank should not put a multi-million dollar price tag on something never intended to be sold. We demand that the Church permanently protect the priceless Belt Woods, not convert it into suburban sprawl." If protected, Belt Woods would be a unique opportunity to create an old-growth preserve near our nation's capitol.

Please contact Bishop Haines and tell him that protecting Seton Belt's Home Farm with its precious Belt Woods is a matter of moral conscience. Urge him to adopt the recommendation of resident musician, Paul Winter, that Belt Woods be preserved for the songbirds, for children's education and for future generations. Ask him to honor the Diocese's own pledges that call the faithful to "passionately care for the Earth, striving to live into the promises and mandates which are ours as stewards of creation," and protect the woods, which are an "area of God's natural world earmarked for destruction."

Write to the Right Reverend Ronald Haines, Episcopal Church House, Mt. St. Alban, Washington, DC 20016, phone (202) 537-6550. And since Belt Woods is an area of national and international significance, please send copies to the Presiding Bishop: The Right Reverend Edmund Browning, 815 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017

To get involved, contact: Coalition to Save Belt Woods (a project of Save Americas Forests), Box 1023, Bowie MD 20715 or Anacostia/Rock Creek EF! (see directory, p. 39.)

Rainforest Activists Seize Mahogany

On August 12th rainforest activists shut down the front gate of Thompson Mahogany Company in Philadelphia, seizing mahogany shipments illegally logged on Amazon Indian lands in Brazil. Two activists chained themselves to the front gate of Thompson's lumber yard, while several others climbed to the top of 12-foot high stacks of "stolen" mahogany, unfurling a banner with the message, "Mahogany is Murder." Nearly fifty neighborhood children joined in the protest, swelling the number of participants to over 125.

Thompson Mahogany is one of the top ten importers of the wood to North America. Thompson Mahogany president Don Thompson is a leader of the International Hardwood Products Association.

Most mahogany exported from Brazil and Bolivia originates from indigenous people's lands and protected conservation areas. Brazil's Roman Catholic Bishops estimate 95 percent of the logging in Amazonia is illegal. By searching export statistics, the Rainforest Action Network determined that Thompson received mahogany shipments from at least two companies found guilty by Brazilian Courts. Over the last year, Brazilian Courts have fined several companies caught logging illegally and enjoined other outlaw timber operations.

Last year, Brazil's environmental agency revoked the export license of a Thompson supplier, C&C, which was caught with mahogany illegally obtained from indigenous reserves. C&C has since regained its license and resumed exporting.

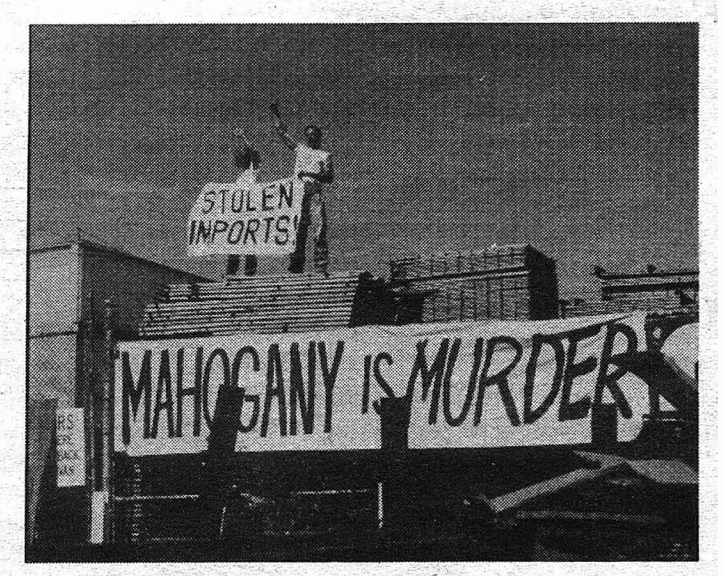
A top director of another Thompson supplier, SEMASA, Ltd., is financially tied to "Impar," a company found guilty of illegal logging in December, 1993. Wood labeled "SEMASA," "Brazil," and "Bolivia" was found in the Thompson yard in late July.

SEMASA points to its mahogany-planting program, but an international team of scientists reported in 1992 that "virtually all mahogany traded on international markets comes from trees extracted from primary forests." Another report said efforts to grow or harvest the wood sustainably have consistently failed.

Activists base the seizure on the common-law doctrine of recovering stolen property. "We can't undo the murders," said Rainforest Action Network's Randy Hayes, "but we are seizing the mahogany to let people know their mahogany furniture is made from stolen goods and comes at the cost of human lives and forest ecosystems."

Despite the court decisions in Brazil, consumer demand for mahogany drives outlaw profiteers to carve thousands of miles of logging roads, destroy forests, and illegally intrude on the lands of indigenous peoples. US markets consume more than half of all Latin American mahogany output.

Eighty indigenous and environmental groups in Brazil have called for a moratorium on mahogany logging in order to assess the damage to the species, the forest ecosystem, and indigenous peoples' land. Rampant exploitation of mahogany timber is also destroying Bolivian and Central American rainforests.



In support of the Brazilian groups, Greenpeace, Rainforest Action Network, and other environmental organizations are asking consumers to boycott mahogany products. The groups are also asking the Clinton administration to back a proposal to regulate the international mahogany trade. Specifically, they want mahogany to be listed under Appendix II of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Appendix II is not a ban, but helps mahogany producing countries to regulate the trade and protect the long-term survival of the several mahogany species.

Brazilian environmental and Indian affair agencies are ill-equipped to enforce regulations that would end the over-exploitation of mahogany and the invasion of indigenous lands. CITES would give mahogany-exporting countries international assistance in harnessing this bandit trade.

In a related story, the New Jersey legislature is considering a selective-purchasing bill. That legislation would prohibit the use of tropical hardwoods by the state government unless the timber is sustainably harvested. The only thing keeping the bill from passing has been stiff lobbying by Don Thompson and the International Hardwood Products Association.

—Rainforest Action Network

Identity Politics & the Cairo (Over) Population

BY BILL MCCORMICK

Recently I have become increasingly concerned about a phenomenon commonly known as "the politics of identity,"[1] especially as it relates to the population debate.

Daphne Patai, of the University of Massachussetts, has a very concise paper on ideological purity and internal policing. She defines identity politics as "the assumption that a person's racial or ethnic identity and views are one and the same. If people found what I said sympathetic or useful to blacks, I must be black. If minority women were frustrated or disappointed by an administrative decision, I must be a racist... the facts of the case were of no importance. Only identity counted."[2]

A while ago on the McNeil-Lehrer report, Cynthia Tucker, an African-American woman and head of the editorial page at the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, described a sadly humorous facet of their day-to-day existence. She pointed out how approximately 80 percent of the politicians in Atlanta are black, so when they criticize corruption in office, it only stands to reason that no small portion of the time they will be criticizing black individuals. This, in turn, leads to Ms. Tucker and her office routinely being peppered with charges of racism, white supremacy and so forth. This is perhaps one of the more bizarre examples of how identity politics and 'political correctness' exert themselves in modern society.

Much has been written in the last few years on how we have become a "nation of finger-pointers" and "eternal victims."[3] The bewildered editors of the British *Economist* noted that the United States is the only country in the world where "If you drive drunk and crash you can sue someone else for failing to warn you to stop drinking. There is always someone else to blame."[4] Conversely, cautious asides about personal responsibility or content of character can bring down thundering accusations of oppression and male hegemony.

Jacob Weisberg, in an article describing attempts to oppose the Persian Gulf war at Oberlin College, writes that "the college's peace efforts have been undermined by the same balkanization that brought down its student government."[5] The black and the Jewish associations did not want to cooperate. The feminists wanted to retain their unique 'collective identity.' Even the "Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Union recently splintered into four narrow factions"[6] based on race and class lines. Anyone who has ever tried to organize anything on a college campus in recent years will readily recognize this pattern.

It doesn't take a genius to see that something is terribly wrong with this picture. In his superb article, "The Left, Lost in the Politics of Identity," former SDS organizer Todd Gitlin bemoans these recent trends. He notes how, in the 1960s and earlier, the left had a shared vision of a common humanity, admirably summed up by the work of Martin Luther King, Jr. What remains, however, "is based not so much on a common humanity as on a common enemy—the notorious White Male."[7] Gitlin goes on to write:

Unless it learns to speak its own language of commonality, the shards of the left will be condemned to their separate sectors, sometimes glittering, sometimes smashed, and mostly marginal.[8]

Now what does all this have to do with this year's UN Conference on Population in Cairo? Well, as someone who has spent a lot of time and energy on population, I have increasingly been aware of a "big chill" coming across the population debate.

For example, a well known ecology magazine recently reversed its stance on the importance of population limitation, and subsequently declined to take a position on whether "overpopulation" or "underpopulation" was the problem.[9] Other well-known writers have loudly decried "the myth of overpopulation,"[10] and even suggested that "wild fertility"[11] would be a worthwhile and admirable goal. Even the venerable founder of the phrase *deep ecology* himself has taken to hedging his bets, and now suggests it may no longer be appropriate for those from developed countries to mention the population problem.[12]

I'm not going to waste your time explaining why continued human overpopulation is disastrous for the state of the planet under any set of circumstances. What I want to suggest is that—under the current atmosphere—debates about population are no longer settled on the basis of good arguments or presentations of the facts. I will argue that today they are settled *almost entirely* on the basis of the race, gender or class background of the speaker or writer.

Let me give you a few examples:

• Virtually every indentifiable indigenous society has made it a central practice, continued over thousands of years, to hold down their populations below the level at which they would begin to cause serious ecological dis-equilibrium within their respective regions. In all of America north of the Rio Grande—a territory which might accommodate 40-45 million people—there were perhaps 10 million indigenous inhabitants at the onset of the European invasion. And these low numbers are not accounted for by the population in question living at the razor's edge of subsistence. Indeed, they were cultures which had been perfected over a thousand generations...

Population rather than production is the issue actually before us. In fact, it seems to me that any serious discussion of a global problem resolution must begin with the observation that a 5.25 billion human population [now 5.7] is itself outrageously unrealistic. The question then becomes not how we sustain such a ludicrous overburden of one species, but how we begin to inculcate a broad consciousness leading to the steady scaling back of human numbers to some point well below 50 percent of the present level, and keep it there...[13]

• Part of what justice means for non-human animals is that there will just have to be fewer people, because I think the insistence of people to cover the Earth is itself a grievous insult to the non-human animals whose space is squeezed into nonexistence. Just because people can have three, four and five children does not mean that that's the best thing for all creation. It definitely is not...

The planet is not helpless and its patience is wearing thin. I'm all for its patience to wear thin because I can't stand the abuse of the planet and the rampant lack of compassion for the Earth.[14]

Now who do you suppose these statements are from? Paul Ehrlich? Dave Foreman? No, the first is from the American Indian Movement leader Ward Churchill, and the second from the reknown African-American writer, Alice Walker.

DON'T WORRY, THE EARTH'S CAPACITY FOR HUMAN BEINGS IS INFINITE.
There's a sucker born every minute.
TOLES
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYND.
©1994 THE BUFFALO NEWS
WE CAN SEND THE SURPLUS TO MARS!
AND THEN THERE'LL BE A MARTIAN BORN EVERY MINUTE!

What is even more startling is the public's reaction to these very clear statements on the need for population reduction. If I were to call for a 50 percent reduction in human population—as did Ward Churchill in the pages of the leftist *Z Magazine*—what do you suppose the reaction would be? Well, when deep ecologists started calling for human population reduction in the 1980s, they were subject to a massive, decade-long bombardment in both the alternative and mainstream press, and called every sort of name on record, even some that hadn't even been invented yet (i.e. eco-brutalist).

Yet when Ward Churchill made very strong pleas not just for population limitation (that alone would be enough to get a white male such as myself raked over white-hot coals of indignation), but massive population reduction, there was not a peep. No angry letters of any sort whatever. James O'Conner—the eco-socialist to whom Churchill's article was a response—was uncharacteristically mute. "I have nothing to say..."[15] was his lame response. If Paul Erlich had written that article, and called for a 50 percent reduction in human population, do you suppose the only response O'Conner could conjure up would be "I have nothing to say?!" There have been volumes and volumes of criticism written on Erlich's pleas for population reduction.

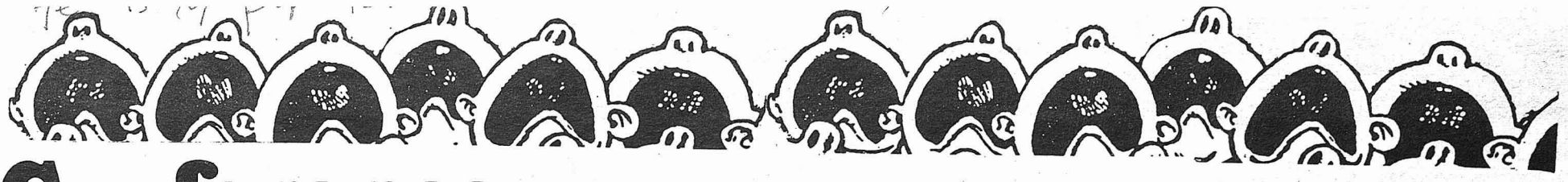
The very same is true of Alice Walker's comments. There were no angry letters, no editorial disclaimers in subsequent issues of the *Animal's Agenda*. To her undying credit, Alice has been very gutsy in stressing population and birth control. Just a few months ago, I heard her say repeatedly on a *New Dimensions* radio broadcast that given the current state of the Earth there is no reason for anyone anywhere having more than one child. Was a boycott of her works organized? Was she denied further air time? Of course not. What Alice Walker says about population and birth control is just good, common sense.

By the time you read this, the UN Conference on Population in Cairo will already be history. In my view, the results will depend largely on whether the participants decide to succumb to the disastrous drift toward identity politics, or whether they stand up and shoulder the very real responsibility of slowing and reversing the human population explosion.

One possible example of how the latter contingency could be fleshed out was in a 1990 report called *The Challenge of the South*, written by Julius Nyerere and 27 other third-world leaders. Although not deep ecologists, the authors acutely realize that the "cult of victimhood" can only go so far, and that the South must ultimately start making plans for its own future –and not simply waiting on the North for answers.

Throughout their report, the writers focus on the crippling, tragic effects of overpopulation on the southern nations. Not one of them is so foolish as to believe "wild fertility" is a good thing. I'll leave you with a few of their words, which represent a transcendence of the narrow, identity politics that have blinded so many current writers on population:

"We are greatly concerned that the population in many countries of the



Conference

South is growing at an explosive and, in the long run, unsustainable pace. The present high rates of population growth increase the burden of dependency in several countries, the pressure of growing numbers on the limited fertile land is accelerating the degradation of land and water resources and causing excessive deforestation. Rapid population growth is also a principle factor in the uncontrolled growth of vast urban agglomerations...

"The societies of the South must willingly accept a firm commitment to responsible parenthood and the small family norm. We are conscious that we are dealing with issues that touch on some of the deepest human emotions. The pro-natal sentiment has strong roots in most traditional societies...

"The task is indeed formidable, but the consequences of inaction can be disastrous. The South must summon sufficient political will to overcome the various obstacles to the pursuit of a sensible policy on population."[16]

1. Todd Gitlin, "The Left, Lost in the Politics of Identity," *Harpers*, September 1993, p 16.
2 Daphne Patai, "The Struggle for feminist Purity Threatens the Goals of Feminism," Education Digest, May 1992, pp. 28-29.
3. Lance Morrow, "A Nation of finger Pointers," Time, August 12, 1991, p. 14.
4. Quoted in Charles Sykes, A Nation of Victims, St. Martins, New York, 1992, p. 15.
5. Jacob Weisberg, "Thin Skins," New Republic, February 18, 1991, p.22.
6. ibid. p.22.
7. Gitlin, p.20.
8. ibid. p.20.
9. Bill McCormick, "Who controls Population?" The Ecologist, Jan/Feb 1993. Also see the letters section for May/June 93 for Saral sarkar & Sandy Irvine's letters.
10. Maria Mies & Vandana Shiva, Ecofeminism, Zed Books, London, 1993, p. 189.
11. ibid. pp.138 & 190.
12. Arne Naess, "How Should Supporters of the Deep Ecology Movement Behave?" The Trumpeter, Summer 1993, p.98.
13. Ward Churchill, "Response to James O'Connor," Z Magazine, July/August 1989, p.154. Also see Churchill's column in the July/August 1991 Z for a rejoiner on the importance of population. p.65.
14. Alice Walker, Interview, Animal's Agenda, April 1988. pp.56-57.
15. James O'Conner, Z Magazine, July/August 1989, p.157.
16. Julius Nyerere et al, The Challenge to the South, Oxford University Press, 1990, pp. 281-283.

"The Wrong People Are Having Children These Days"

BY LES U. KNIGHT

How many times have you heard that one? We can be sure they're not talking about themselves: it's *those* wrong people. It's those stupid, slack-jawed degenerates who shouldn't breed. Those too poor to raise children, or so warped they don't even *like* children and might abuse them. Certainly, this logic follows, bad genetic specimens should never duplicate their defects.

Implicit in these opinions is the attitude that some people are the right people to pass along their genes. Smart, financially secure, responsible, socially aware people with superior genes ought to make more of each other. After all, someone is going to, right?

Maybe so, but even if intelligence could be measured or inherited, there's no evidence that smart people's cars pollute less than morons'. And, since the wealthy are better able to provide materially for their dependents than the economically disadvantaged are, they're also likely to do the most damage to the environment with their excessive consumption.

Some say that their religious or political belief system needs more members to make the world a better place, but there's no guarantee that off-spring will follow the traditions of their parents. In fact, just the opposite seems to be the norm in modern societies. Besides, if the only people who will accept a belief system are those born into it, there must be some serious flaws in that system.

Others contend that their race or ethnic group is in the minority, or will be soon if they don't keep up. Carrying on the family name has long been an unquestioned justification for reproduction, and when a couple says they want to "have one of our own," they mean "make one that has our genes." The mindset behing this bloodline mentality is deep and strong: more of "Us" and less of "Them." Smells like racism to me. When trying to conceive a specific gender, sexism is also in the wind. It goes beyond racism for us to create replicas of ourselves, while tens of thousands of Others' children die from a lack of care each day.

Anyway, simply increasing the sheer numbers of people who share a philosophy or genetic makeup doesn't always improve their status. "Breeding wars" between rival groups have shifted political power in a few majority-rule governments, however, members of those groups usually aren't any better off just by being in a larger voting block. Breeding for power is a remnant of that ancient tradition of mass murder we call genocide. The motivation remains the same.

What it boils down to is that it's the wrong *species* "having children." Regardless of our minor differences, we are all Homo sapiens and we all impact Earth's biosphere detrimentally. The increase of our species amounts to a decrease of other species. As long as extinctions of wildlife continue at an outrageous pace, the intentional creation of another one of us by anyone anywhere can't be justified.

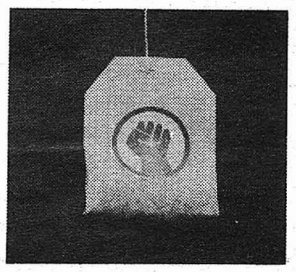
So, rather than trying to make things better for Us while ignoring Them, we can make things better for All by choosing to avoid additional procreation altogether. The smaller the human family, the better we can care for one another. The fewer humans inhabiting Earth, the more room there will be for wilderness and for wildlife.

May we live long and die out.

FALLACY OF WILDERNESS

T-BAG Action

Continued from page 10



cleanup of the 27 known dioxin sites in Missouri. In 1988, after negotiations closed to the public, Syntex Agribusiness entered into a consent decree with Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and EPA to incinerate more than 300,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil at Times Beach along with the waste at the other 26 Missouri sites. The incinerator proposal was voted down in a county-wide referendum in 1990, however plans to construct the incinerator continued.

The corporate industrial PR machine intensified its efforts to allay Missouri's concern over dioxin and the proposed incinerator. Referencing an old CDC report, then considered fallacious even by the agency that issued it, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* ran a front page article with a banner headline declaring, "Dioxin Scare Now Called Mistake." The old CDC study on dioxin, performed by Dr. Vernon Houk, was conducted on Vietnam veterans well before approaching any now-established latency periods for diseases associated with dioxin exposure. The study was also aborted prematurely. Dr. Houk's pro-industry activities came under close scrutiny by a House government-operations subcommittee in 1990. The former director of CDC was then lobbying for lower dioxin emissions for many chlorine-based industries, including pulp and paper mills. The story also quoted Armon Yanders, head of the University of Missouri's Environmental Trace Substances Research Center, stating "dioxin has certain properties that may be useful in fighting some cancers, including breast cancer." Yander's research center had been paid $250,000 by a law firm representing Syntex to conduct experiments on soil samples—money from the very company responsible for the Times Beach cleanup. Yanders was also paid thousands of dollars to testify on behalf of Syntex in court.

A preliminary report leaked to the *New York Times* by scientists conducting EPA's reassessment on dioxin verified the chemical's reputation as the most potent synthetic carcinogen known to humankind. The report also confirmed dioxin is a powerful estrogenic compound likely responsible for immune deficiency disorders, even at background levels to which many human populations are already exposed.

Not only is dioxin toxic, it is hard to burn. Many areas of the US have abandoned incineration for superior "closed" system, non-thermal methods of dioxin destruction. The EPA still is unable to meet their own standards for stack emissions at the Jacksonville, Arkansas dioxin incinerator.

Recent protests by Times Beach Action Group (T-BAG), including Big River Earth First!ers, has rekindled public awareness and opposition to the incinerator project. Activities have ranged from occupation of a billboard near the site to on-site disruptions. On April 1st, T-BAG effectively stopped construction for two days with a mock test burn, in which protesters trespassed onto the site and supporters threw smoke canisters at arresting officers.

Direct action is getting the goods, as many public officials join in the fight to reopen the consent decree between Syntex, EPA and Missouri DNR. An amendment recently introduced to the Superfund Re-authorization Bill would halt construction of the incinerator. The bill's sponsor, Rep. Jim Talent (D-MO), and the county council have publicly petitioned Missouri Governor Mel Carnahan to re-open the consent decree. The council also voted unanimously to request that the state close the road leading into Times Beach to construction traffic.

With growing bipartisan support for environmental justice at Times Beach, Carnahan has been ostensibly silent on the issue. Holding an office that has sole authority to cancel the project, the Governor has failed to publicly respond to requests by the county council, state and federal representatives, and thousands of county citizens to halt the project. Research by T-BAG into Carnahan's campaign contributions revealed substantial donations from the incineration industry.

Responding to reports that burn permits will soon be issued for the incinerator by DNR, T-BAG declared to the press, "If this incinerator is built, the fight is far from over. This is about accountability and the poisoning of communities. We never sleep, we never forget."

For more information about the Times Beach incinerator, contact Big River Earth First! (see directory, p. 39.) For more info on dioxin and pulp and paper mills, contact Big River EF! or the Native Forest Network at (802) 863-0571.

Joan Moser and David Abortion contributed to this article.

LETTERS AND THEN SOME...

Dear Editor,

I am responding to a passage in "D-Day for Northwest Forests," by Justin Time, *Earth First!* Vol XIV, No. VI, Litha 1994, regarding Idaho and Montana Wilderness bills and Roadless Area protection. Mr. Time reports that "[t]he nationals supposedly oppose the Idaho bill and any entry into roadless areas, but where were the alerts? Certainly not on the censored Western Ancient Forest Campaign (WAFC) fax network. ...[T]he only mass fax on the WAFC net was a self-serving copy of an atrocious Washington Post editorial... One would never know... of opposition to the Montana and Idaho Bills from reading the 'grassroots' WAFC net or any other communication coming out of green central in DC."

For the record, it should be noted that WAFC has diligently reported on Idaho and Montana wilderness bills and Roadless Area protection.Specifically, WAFC broadcast the following fax alerts regarding Idaho and Montana wilderness bills: —March 3, 1994 "Northern Rockies Ecosystem Needs Your Help." —March 7, 1994 "Idaho Roadless Area Threatened by Timber Sales." —July 15, 1994 "The Idaho Wilderness Bill Withdrawn." —July 27, 1994 "Threats to Idaho/Montana EIS."

WAFC's *Report from Washington*, it's faxed, mailed and E-mailed newsletter that covers bill hearings and markups and reprints submissions from grassroots activists reporting on a range of forest related issues, reported the following: —Vol. 3, No. 10, October 1, 1993, "Action on Montana Wilderness Bill Expected Soon" and "Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA) Gets Hot." —Vol. 3, No. 13, December 3, 1993, "Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA) Update." —Vol. 4, No. 3; March 30, 1994, "LaRocco Idaho Wilderness Bill: 'It's About Certainty,'" "Williams Asks for Luck o' the Irish for Montana Wilderness Bill," "Montana Wilderness Bill Moves to House Floor," and "More on Release Language." —Vol. 4, No. 4; May 9, 1994, "NREPA Faces Heavy Opposition During April Hearing," "NREPA Gets Second House Hearing," and "Montana Wilderness Bill Headed for the House Floor." —Vol. 4, No. 5; June 7, 1994, "Dangerous Idaho Wilderness Bill Moving Fast," "Montana Wilderness Bill Passes House," "Senator Baucus Introduces Wilderness Bill," and "Senator Burns Introduces 'Montana Wise-Abuse Bill.'" —Vol. 4, No. 6, July 8, 1994, "LaRocco Idaho Wilderness Bill Clears Subcommittee."

If Mr. Time does not know of WAFC's well-articulated opposition to the Montana and Idaho wilderness bills and the reasons for opposing these bills, or of WAFC's support for the ecosystem-based Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA), he should go back and read WAFC's alerts and *Report from Washington* as cited above.

WAFC not only alerted its grassroots FaxNet and MailNet subscribers to the status of these bills, but specifically described the bills' failings: "hard" release language, "Special Management Areas," water rights and preservation of wilderness values, "forest health" and salvage issues, etc.

The *Washington Post* editorial cited as WAFC's "only mass fax" was actually only faxed to approximately 14 members of WAFC's Board and the Ancient Forest Alliance, a regular practice of circulating D.C. media coverage of Ancient Forest issues for informational purposes.

In addition to reporting on the Clinton Administration's Northwest Forest Plan, WAFC has reported on the Eastside Ecosystem Management Process (EEMP), PACFISH and the Forest Service "reinvention," the agency and Administration initiatives intended to set precedents for "ecosystem management" and agency reform across the country.

Moreover, in the past two years, WAFC has amplified the role environmentalists have played in expanding their political forums beyond the Congressional authorizing committees, championing Roadless Area protection by focusing on the Interior Appropriations process and the Forest Service budget. While Earth First!ers were subverting the dominant paradigm, WAFC-sponsored grassroots activists were lobbying members of the House Appropriations Committee to eliminate the road building budget for the Forest Service.

The result this year was that for the first time ever, activists succeeded in having a one-year road building moratorium amendment included in the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman's "mark," the starting point for the Interior Appropriations bill. This incited the wrath of Rep. Norman Dicks (D-WA), who demanded the Roadless Area moratorium amendment be removed and replaced with report language crafted by Forest Service Chief Jack Ward Thomas. Despite this setback, forest activists succeeded in getting the agency to recognize the importance of Roadless Areas. Holding the agency to the task of protecting all remaining Roadless Areas on public lands is the task at hand and one in which we should be united.

WAFC's fax alerts and the monthly in-depth *Report* describe what happens in Congress — how Members vote and what they say — and how best to respond, thereby giving grassroots forest activists the wherewithal, the "hooks," with which to talk with lawmakers to oppose or support legislation. WAFC encourages submissions to the *Report* and actively solicits action alerts from grassroots groups. Further, WAFC's alerts and *Report* will not tell grassroots activists what to think or do, rather they provide the information to create informed positions and take action.

Sincerely,

—Jim Owens
Executive Director
Western Ancient Forest Campaign

Justin Time responds:

Interesting that Jim Owens, ED of the Western Ancient Forest Campaign (WAFC), in choosing to respond to my piece ("D-Day for Northwest Forests") conveniently uses an ellipsis (...) to remove the meat of my critique and only focuses on the issue of the Idaho and Montana Wilderness (Destruction) Bills.

The redacted issue of the advocacy of the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund (SCLDF) and its captive plaintiffs for the release of the injunction in the "Spotted Owl" lawsuit is completely missing in Owens' two pages of rationale. By all accounts, it was a memo from Owens claiming that we couldn't win a rider fight that was the linchpin argument for the abandonment of the injunction, just as the same analysis was the rationale for giving up the Deal of Shame sales last Fall. And, the fact that many of the surrendering plaintiffs are also WAFC board members is also not addressed.

While discussing WAFC's past failures, it should also be noted that WAFC, Americans for Ancient Forests and the Rockefeller Family Fund bear a large responsibility for the shellacking we got at the Clinton Forest Conference. By helping to undemocratically pick (in our name) a passionless group of "representatives," WAFC abetted the situation where we did not have the right people there to rebut industry's many lies. The industry even got away with portraying the ITT/Rayonier Gray's Harbor pulp mill closure as a spotted owl issue when, in fact, it was closed for EPA violations! We were saddled over and over with an image of un-caring conservationists taking food out of the mouths of widows and orphans without rebuttal. One of "our" representatives even said that "I'm not against log exports..." Another concurred with industry and claimed that lumber price increases were the result of "scarcity" of supply. "Scarcity" in an industry that can somehow find an exportable annual surplus of over 10 billion board feet of unprocessed wood products from the Northwest alone! With that performance, is it any wonder that Clinton has the American public thinking conservationists won the Ancient Forest issue?

Historian Kimbark MacColl wrote a memo telling how he was forced to remove from his Forest Conference opening remarks any mention of the timber industry's checkered past. He was told to re-write a sanitized version on the very day of the conference. Yet, that was never reported on the WAFC net. Why not? While we Earth First!ers were "out subverting the dominant paradigm," as Owens notes, WAFC and others were playing the role of Contras, propping up the very paradigm that we must overturn if we are to save the planet.

Let's face it. WAFC was sent to DC with two missions: to pass the Ancient Forest Protection Act (it never even got to hearings) and to set up a grass roots communications network. Owens states that the WAFC's Report from Washington *"reprints submissions from grassroots activists," yet I know of the case where the first in-depth (and to date, the best) analysis of (co)-Option 9 was turned down for broadcast on the WAFC network even when the author offered to pay the costs himself! That's censorship in anyone's book — not an active solicitation of submissions and alerts, as Owens claims.*

Now that that's off my chest, let's play "what if we were to declare an amnesty on all of our past mistakes and focus on the present?" What about current critical issues such as the new Crime Bill that criminalizes Civil Disobedience? Will WAFC take a forceful stand on that? And how about the shenanigans of next April's corporate 25th Earth (Plunder) Day? "Greenwashing" by the corporate benefactors of the foundations that WAFC and most of the mainstream enviros depend on is rarely mentioned, let alone challenged. Now, there's *a paradigm that really needs subverting. And, most importantly, now that WAFC is the choice of the foundations to head up their "Eastside" forest campaign, will they repeat their past failures in another threatened ecosystem?*

I concede that WAFC has reported on the Idaho and Montana Bills, though very circumspectly. And, the Sierra Club sent out strongly worded alerts on the Idaho Bill. Yet, upon re-reading the Reports *Owens mentions, I admit I still don't have any sense of "WAFC's well-articulated opposition to the Montana and Idaho wilderness bills" nor of WAFC's great "support for the ecosystem-based Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA)." In fact, I found one Report that praises Sen. Max (the Ax) Baucus in glowing terms.*

Bottom line is: if WAFC or any other collection of folks wants to gain funding and access in the name of the grassroots of the forest protection movement, then they are going to have to be accountable to all of us. WAFC's, and all the national groups' paradigm of exclusion and undemocratic behavior can be rectified. It's Owens' and other DC conservationists' choice. Continue to act in our name without consulting us and continue to risk criticism, or consult first, get it right and go at it united and strong.

—Justin Time

Dear Shit Fer Brains,

I just read Beverly Cherner's letter in the *Journal* in which she pointed out the *Journal's* need for money. Let me tell ya, folks, there ain't not better way to spend your money than to support the *Earth First! Journal*. There just ain't nothin' else like it.

Earth First! first became known to me back in the spring of 1980. There was a brief note about it in the Whole Earth Catalog. From that time on I knew that there were others who felt as I had felt for some time: that we're busily wrecking this joint we live in just about every way we know how. And if the US Government says it's treason or whatever to try to stop it, then so be it. You know, back before the Civil War the US Government actively enforced a law that said if a slave escaped from a plantation citizens were bound to capture them and return him to his rightful (?) owner. It was known as the Fugitive Slave Law. And the government broke strikes, sometimes by shooting and killing people and by hiring informers and double agents. We know a thing or two about that, don't we? Federal and state governments many times have not only failed to enforce environmental laws but have covered up infractions. So one's actions cannot always be guided by what the government says is right.

The government, which reflects the will of the most influential people, has since early times placed property rights and values above everything else. So we see wealth and power prosper in such a climate while human values and the environment languish. By the term 'environment' we mean everything in the natural world.

Obviously, such a situation cannot continue indefinitely. Earth First! has fired the opening salvos of truly radical environmentalism. This entails not only revolutionary changes in our attitudes and actions toward the environment but in our social structure and direction as well. Materialism must give way to superior values and our attitude and policies toward overpopulation must change.

It can be seen that the road ahead is long and rocky. Environmentalism, if one is serious about it, is much more than just a movement. We are talking here about a way of life. *The Earth First! Journal* plays a vital role in the organization, spread and direction of this crusade. It deserves all the support we can give it, not only spiritually and emotionally but financially as well.

—Louis Head

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Congratulations Kelpie and George!

Dear Sneed for Brains:

Lao Tzu's advice, "In action, watch the timing" (as quoted by Fisher in the Lughnasadh blank wall) seems to have been missed by some of the participants in the Watts Bar blockade.

What I refer to is the silly, almost childish, spraypainting done within the Watts Bar compound. What did this accomplish? Did it slow construction? How many people are going to see the spraypainting deep inside the compound anyway? Did it serve any strategic purpose? Not that I can see.

What it did do is provide an avenue of attack within the media for TVA to hammer us—which to a certain extent worked—by making us appear as petty vandals. If we're gonna get hammered in the media lets do it with some dignity, OK? These sorts of CD actions' public appeal is based largely on our righteousness (meant in a good way). Petty vandalism erodes our high ground, making us easy targets for charges of thuggery.

The spraypainting was also repeatedly mentioned in connection with a threatened SLAPP suit, to recover damages. It's shit for the people who are doing CD to have to suffer the consequences for an act that accomplished nothing.

Don't get me wrong, there was plenty of great stuff, necessary stuff (road blockades, lock jamming, etc.) done by the backcountry team(s) that day. This is not a diatribe against monkeywrenching, rather a plea for appropriate timing. Actions should be undertaken with strategy in mind, not merely to vent frustration at the ecological catastrophes all around.

Above all, don't get caught, keep the paws wet, and remember to laugh.

—H.D. Leopold

Dear Shit Fer Brains

Dear Editor[s],
Regarding *"Sustainable Forestry—Why We Bother,"* by Tracy Katelman (page 26, *Earth First!*, Eostar 1994);

The off-handed dismissing of "tree-free" paper as an important part of the deforestation solution, and the characterization of the "tree-free" concept as a "potential cop-out" is inaccurate and misleading. Printing such a poorly conceived opinion on paper made from trees is a waste of good forest.

Katelman contends that "A sustainable managed forest has the potential to be much more ecologically sound than current agricultural fiber production." Sustainable managed agricultural fiber production is more ecologically sound than continuing to cultivate and harvest trees for low-value use such as paper production. The chemicals and energy used to pulp a tree are far greater than what is needed to pulp a plant fiber.

Sustainable forestry is a very valid and important part of the overall solution but, with rapidly growing world populations and an increasing demand for paper, changing the way we cut trees will not be enough. We must change the reasons we cut trees.

Replacing trees with agricultural fibers as a source of paper pulp will reduce the total number of trees harvested, which will force a market realignment. Demand for trees for lumber products will continue to grow. Lumber trees are grown for a longer period, under more sustainable forestry practices, and are more valuable than pulpwood trees. Sustainable forestry costs more. To support the cost, the low-value use of trees for paper must end.

Tree-free paper is an important part of the solution. Your dismissal of this "clearcut alternative" is a disservice to your readers.

—Thomas A. Rymsza
Vision Paper Company

(Tracy Katelman responds:)

Dear Thomas:

I'm sorry if I offended you and your business with my article, that wasn't my intention. My point is that we all consume too much paper. We need to look at ways of reducing that consumption, instead of just switching to another form of it. Personally, I feel we should start REALLY recycling the forest fiber that is already circulating out there. Let's develop the technology to mine the landfills for our fiber. There certainly is plenty of it there. I don't think we need to be producing any more virgin pulp.

I am not opposed to "tree free" paper. Quite the opposite. I too agree that we need to be exploring many different avenues to stop the destruction of our forests. However, I cringe whenever a bright-eyed young activist tries to sell me the stuff as the end-all answer. I do feel it is a potential cop-out. Consumption needs to be radically reduced. I'd rather fight than switch.

My understanding of tree-free paper is that it is made of hemp, kenaf and straw. I haven't heard of any claims that these are being grown organically or in a permaculture system. My statement that "A sustainably managed forest has the potential to be much more ecologically sound than current agricultural fiber production," is based on my understanding of ecology. A managed forest can still be a viable, functioning ecosystem, (depending how it's managed of course). Except for permaculture, which I wholeheartedly advocate, agricultural systems tend not to be natural, functioning ecosystems. I favor functioning ecosystems over agricultural production any day.

—*Tracy Katelman*

Dear Shit for Brains,

Regarding the controversy about alternative paper products, how about using the skin of corporate CEOs. Corpse-like executives molt frequently for survival, why not utilize their shedded skins. I think this is a cosmically karmic idea. My preferred sub-species of corporate executives to transform into paper products would be the thick skinned two-faced Pacific Lumber (PL) chameleons. PL even sounds like the Spanish word for skin, *piel*. Let's learn from native cultures who skinned despoilers of the natural world.

—Dana Dark Cloud

P.S. This is non-violent.

Dear Kaka Heads:

I'll get to you in a moment. First, I have a few words for "Peeved in Corvallis":

EXCUSE ME??!!! Can you say "Women Activists"? Buddy, you either have a huge blind spot or one hell of an arrogant ego if you think women hang around Earth First! to get "drilled." You'd best wake up before the "Hippie Enviro-Chicks from Hell" do the waking for you. Jeeeeez!

Now, as for you, the ever-so-hard-working editorial staff of our beloved Journal:

In my opinion, that letter should never have been run with the "hippie chicks" comment. Now before all you anti-censorship readers start sharpening your pencils, hear me out: the *EF! Journal's* twofold purpose is for communication within the movement, and for outreach, am I correct? Does irrelevant, insulting content have anything to do with either of these goals? I think not. Remarks that alienate activists, especially when they denigrate those activists' sex, color, sexuality, etc., are only damaging to the paper and to our movement. They have no value, and should not be printed. In my opinion, that letter should have been returned to its writer and the message given that it would only be printed with the "hippie chicks" slur removed.

On to the next hot topic: subject matter involving firearms, ammunition or exploding devices in the *Dear Ned Ludd* column. I would like to offer my two cents on this.

Cent # one: I believe that the introduction of firearms, ammunition, and exploding devices crosses a line in many folks' minds, including those small minds at certain government agencies. The argument is whether or not we should cross that line in the *EF! Journal*.

On the one hand, activists engaging in tense, non-violent confrontation could be endangered by the printing of such items. Articles in the Journal can be and have been used by provocateurs to inflame violence toward protesters and protest organizers. I believe the *Journal* staff has a responsibility to consider the safety of EF! activists when deciding whether to print a particular piece.

On the other hand, many in our movement argue that, as long as precautions are taken to ensure that no one gets hurt, any monkeywrenching tactic should be considered. The *Journal* is one of very few forums for discussing monkeywrenching tactics, and most of us want that forum to continue.

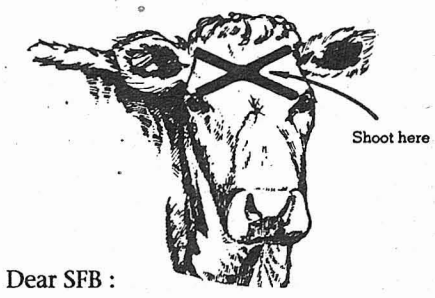
So I have a suggestion: I suggest that the editorial staff use "red flags" during the initial "read and comment" stage of production. A red flag would indicate a piece with potentially controversial content, such as the use of firearms or sexist remarks. Any piece that has been flagged then MUST be seriously discussed by the full editorial staff. The staff needs to seriously consider risks to activists' personal safety, should the piece be taken out of context and publicized. The staff must also seriously consider the impact to the movement of alienating activists by printing statements that denigrate them because of their gender, race, etc. Then ask yourselves, "Is this piece really worth it?"

Cent # two: The *Journal* staff strives to make the *Journal* represent the diverse voices of our diverse movement. They have a picture in their minds of what YOU, the movement, want in the *Journal*. That picture is formulated with what they hear from YOU.

So, if YOU, friend, have problems with anything you read in the *Journal* (or want the *Journal* to cover things you haven't seen there), YOU have a responsibility to make yourself heard. You don't have to write a *"Dear Shit Fer Brains"* letter if you are worried about exposing yourself as one of those granola-eatin' non-violent Gandhi-lovers (like I just did). Just give the folks here a call, or drop them a note (and tell them if you want it printed). Remember, the staff only knows what they hear, and they can only print what they get.

Let's keep working together to keep it wild!

—Karen "Hey - I Just Do The Books" Wood



Dear SFB :

Just wanted to make sure y'all knew about the dreaded fever tick. Apparently cow-fever resistant longhorns driven to Kansas City for eastern markets, gave the disease-bearing parasites to vulnerable shorthorns, causing *mucho havoc*. The tick is now wiped out in the US. The cowboyz estimate their potential losses at $4 billion if the fever tick ever makes its way back north from Mexico. Amateur reintroduction efforts should target feedlots after the last local frost of the year.

—I-5 EF!

Dear Black, White, Yellow, Red, and Brown people,

I know that the readership of the Journal is heavily of the white complexion and this often troubles me. I have also found the vast majority of Earth Firstlers to be white. As well it's sad to say many of the issues being fought about are affecting areas that are inhabited most closely by predominantly white people. Please correct my ignorance if I am wrong (I'm tired of James Bay being pointed to as if that makes up for the angle of the rest of our work), but we are neglecting the vast majority of the world's population. We need to take a strong look at Environmental Justice issues and see where and if we fit in. I know from personal experience living in consumer land (read: *enviro-hell*), USA, also known as NYC, that urban comsumption may be our greatest environmental crisis. In Brooklyn plans are still in motion to build a 44 story garbage incinerator (which would be North America's largest), while at the same time enforcement monies for those refusing to comply with recycling laws has been cut out of NYC's budget. I know there are plenty more of you out there living in the cities, why can we only turn a few people out for things like International Day of Demonstration against Hydro-Quebec and why do I never see another Earth Firstler at a demonstration against the incinerators proposed in NYC? Please tell me what other urban problems Earth First! is making it's presence known for.

Peace, Love, & Environmental Justice,

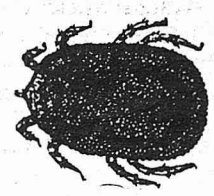
—Timothy J. in Brooklyn

Dear Sirs,

I support your idea of stopping logging companies from clear cutting. I feel that if we don't stop it soon, it will be too late. I hope someday someone will stop and listen to Earth First. Earth First all the way!!

Could you send me more information about Earth First.

—Lisa Ford



I Shake

I shake my fist at the penile Winnebagos that slide with ease and comfort into the parking lot that was my homeland. I shake my bronze buttocks at righteous cops protecting the American Way of non-Living. I shake my being at NAFTA, GATT, at multi-irrational corporations. I shake my fist at "Protect Your Forest" Forest Service signs depicting a monoculture. I shake my incisors at public lands bovine. I shake my pussy at those afraid of my blood. I shake my head at the apathetic tiny lives that pervade academia. I shake my recent issue of the journal at you nincompoops who fail to subscribe(!). I shake my toes at critics of shaking. I shake my multi-purpose Swiss Army knife with fold-out axe at Boy Scouts. I shake Darwin's *Origin of the Species* at the tourists who faithfully fall off the Grand Canyon rim, illustrating natural selection in action. I shake my bum at toilet paper. I shake my belly at your SLAPP suit and grand jury attempts to intimidate. I shake my breasts at the christian mores that tell me to hide them. I shake my fist at advertisements that convince me I'm not whole and then proffer poison remedies. I shake my ragged hiking boots at every job I've ever turned down. I shake I shake until death do I part. Until I shake my o-hopefully-not-too-toxic body at Grizzly Bear. I shake the dance on mountain peak, in slickrock canyon. I shake 'round campfires with those whom I love. I shake with the snake I just peeled from the center lane. I shake with the LA quake. I shake, my Love, at the word vasectomy. I shake my personal vortex-seeking power crystal (that cost just 12 grand) at your feel-good-whatever-makes-me-happy religion. I shake at the Glen Canyon Damnation. Ants crawl, fish swim, eagles peck the eyes out of their prey, I shake.

—Faith Walker

(letters continued on page 30)

ARMED TO THE TEETH WITH LETTERS

(After the following letter was received at the Journal, *Karen Wood responded that she would be willing to write a piece for* Idaho Timberland. *The editor, Kim Creviston, then responded by asking Karen if she would like to respond to a piece written by Barry Clausen. Knowing that Clausen is a self-proclaimed infiltrator of Earth First!, Karen said, "Sure!" We decided to reprint all three letters: Kim's request, Clausen's article, and lastly, Karen's response. Maybe more of you would like to respond to Kim's request.)*

To the Editor,

I am writing to ask if any person(s) affiliated with Earth First! would be interested in contributing an article on behalf of your organization to our publication, *Idaho Timberland*.

Idaho Timberland is a monthly timber industry newspaper distributed to the 20,560 state timber industry employees. The first issue will be distributed September 27th.

This is an opportunity for your organization to explain your position to Idaho's timber industry employees. We will publish your article as written (350-600 words, please).

It is our mission to provide a medium that both environmental groups and pro-timber industry coalitons can communicate in. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at anytime. Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,

—Kim Creviston
Idaho Timberland
POB 1042
Lewiston, ID 83501
(208) 798-0536

(Barry Clausen's article:)

AIDING AND ABETTING TERRORISM

The definition of terrorism as defined in the US Department of Justice report to Congress on the extent and effects of domestic and international terrorism by animal rights activists, and according to the FBI, is as follows:

The unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives.

Karen Wood, the business manager of the *Earth First! Journal*, says that "it is often difficult to convey to the public that the *EF! Journal* staff does not speak on behalf of the movement. The *Journal* itself attempts to be a forum for the EF! movement, but our staff are not any kind of authority figures within the movement."

I do not accept this, but let us assume that this is true, then according to definition of law the *Earth First! Journal* is aiding and abetting terrorists. In the past the *Journal* has advocated criminal acts, an example is: if you have a terminal illness, not to waste your time and money dying but to strap a bomb to your body and blow yourself up while standing on a bridge or a dam. In the current issue of the *Earth First! Journal* there is an ad by a terrorist that says:

HAVE A BALL AT THE MALL THIS FALL

The first annual CLOSE DOWN THE MALLS DAY! will be held Friday, November 25, 1994. Shut down your local mall on the busiest shopping day of the year! Who says you gotta be a grinch to steal Christmas? This year you can join the Great American Mall-out and help all those manic consumers save a little money this shopping season. We all know that behind every clearcut, every stripmine, every toxic waste dump, is the rampant mindless consumption which fuels the economic [originally: ecocidal] *Machine. So on the day after Thanksgiving, why not crawl down off that tree-sit platform and strike back against the source of the problem?* [Deleted: A variety of methods can be used: human blockades, krypto locks on the doors, or more covert methods:] *Let the Yule spirit move and inspire you. Educate the public and media about the impact that our consumer "life"-style has on the real world. Shake a few of those helpless lemmings from their consumer frenzy. If they don't beat you up, they'll probably thank you. Do a* [originally: Drink a toast, with a little syrup of ipecac, to a] *Puke-in "You're shopping makes me sick!"* [deleted: boric acid in the vents,] *blood in the fur department, pull the fire alarm, call a bomb threat, block[ade] a highway exit ramp or other entrance to your neighborhood mall.*

I have and always will call Earth First! a terrorist organization. We do not need the leaders of Earth First! or a publication that advocates to our young people that it is acceptable to commit a criminal act if you hide under the environmental flag.

Earth First! says they are not an organization; they say they are a movement. The definition of organization is: a number of persons or groups united for a particular purpose. Earth First! has offices, they network with computers and fax machines, they have meetings and instead of a membership list they have mailing lists.

The definition of movement is: the activities of a group toward the achievement of a goal. If the prior two examples are Earth First! goals, then their activities should be investigated by the very people that have defined terrorism, the FBI. If you, like so may others, are tired of the terrorist acts of Earth First!, write your elected officials, especially your Senators and members of Congress, and demand an investigation. This can and will happen with your help.

—Barry Clausen
Writing for Idaho Timberland

(Karen's response:)

SEEING THROUGH THE HATEMONGERS

"Fear, hate, and revenge are the oldest tricks in the direct-mail book."

*So says Ron Arnold, a founder of the Wise Use Movement, in an interview published in Outside Magazine (December 1991). Marketers and propagandists know that fear, hate, and revenge are the fastest ways to sway their "target" (that's you) to their side. When political issues, such as the management of public forests, are involved, rousing these powerful emotions can hinder a discussion of facts. As Arnold says, "Facts don't really matter. In politics, perception is reality" (*Outside, *12/91).*

I ask that you put aside the fear and hate roused by Clausen's inflammatory language, so that I can introduce myself in an open environment.

Hi. My name is Karen Wood. I am 32 years old, married, with a one-year-old daughter. I live in Oregon, where I have worked to stop the commercial logging of old-growth forests on public lands since 1985.

In addition to writing letters, meeting with Forest Service and industry representatives, and staffing booths at public events, I have also been arrested for locking myself to logging equipment and blocking a timber sale auction. I have participated in other non-violent protests as well, during which I wasn't arrested.

You probably don't agree with my position on old-growth forests. You may not agree with my tactics. That's OK. I've talked to many folks here in Oregon who, like you, work for the timber industry. I've found that once we can get past the fear and hate generated by people like Clausen, we can talk. We may never agree, but we can begin to understand each other.

No Earth First! action has ever injured anyone but the protesters themselves. We have been physically assaulted and threatened by workers at the sites of our protests who were roused by inflammatory rhetoric such as Clausen's. Protesters participate in extensive "non-violence preparations" to prepare us for these situations. Our tactics may be controversial, sometimes illegal, but we don't hurt people.

It is true that Earth First! is not an "organization", but a "movement." The difference is that we do not have a central hierarchy. There is no president, no executive director. There are individual activists and autonomous local groups. The Earth First! Journal operates as a forum for the larger movement. The Journal staff runs as a collective. I'm the Business Manager: kind of a glorified bookkeeper.

What binds Earth First!ers together is a common vision of wilderness restored.

The Earth could do with a lot less people, and we people could do with a lot less, period. Science tells us that species are going extinct faster than any time in history since the extinction of the dinosaurs. Our hearts tell us that the wild Earth is being replaced by a tame, "managed" landscape. The secret places of the forest have become just so many board feet. We are driven not by fear or hate, but by a deep sense of loss. We are losing the wilderness we love, and we cannot let that happen without a fight.

About two hundred years ago, a movement of anti-imperialist colonists committed "criminal" acts under the American flag, including the civil disobedience action now known as the Boston Tea Party. The Barry Clausens of that day no doubt labeled the rebel upstarts as "terrorists" and disparaged their lawbreaking ways. When judging civil disobedience protests, we must look beyond our own political opinions and protect the right to non-violent dissent.

—Karen Wood
Writing for Idaho Timberlands
(and all the critters in them)

Hello from the radically altered central valley of California,

I haven't looked through the entirety of Trinkets and Snake Oil, but I thought of a good bumper sticker/silent agitator that you might want to market. Try this on for size: Subsidized Water is Socialism. The farmers around here and throughout the West who "depend" on water from federal projects are raising a fuss because they might have to pay more for less water. Some radicals (dramatic pause) want to let more of the water from behind those many dams flow down its streams for fish and wildlife. Many of the farmers around here own thousands of acres and have enough holding companies and subsidiaries to make any drug cartel proud. They get water from state and federal water projects (dams, canals and other fun stuff) for as low as ten percent of the cost to the government. This means that those of us who sign a paper and send it to the IRS are effectively giving our money away so large companies can make bigger bucks.

Here's an interesting twist. In an area where most rivers are over-allotted, people *(read:* companies) have rights to more water than actually flows down the streams and into the reservoirs, some of these agribusinesses are turning around and selling their "surplus water" to cities at full market price. Yes, that's right. We give them water at, say $2/acre foot and they turn around and sell it for $15. Then they have the audacity to claim that they will go out of business or at least take land out of production without "their" cheap government water. Actually, the farm lobby doesn't even think that the status quo is enough for them; there are plans for plenty more dams with just as much or more of the costs passed on to the taxpayer.

There is only one large river in California that doesn't have a dam on it.

They are proud of our capitalist system and point to their successes. We need a way to tell these agribusinesses that we know they are lining their pockets with a different kind of welfare. It would be a big hit at the many meetings where the bureaucrats and the lawyers get together to compromise on the compromises so people can get rich bringing water to places where it doesn't belong.

So next time you happen to be riding through this big valley on your way to somewhere else, keep your eyes open. The signs are attached to cotton wagons and say Farming + Water = Jobs. Laugh or swear at the lie, or better yet, cut the fucking thing down.

Hell, I'll buy a few,

—Livin in a land fucked by Ag.
Fresno, CA

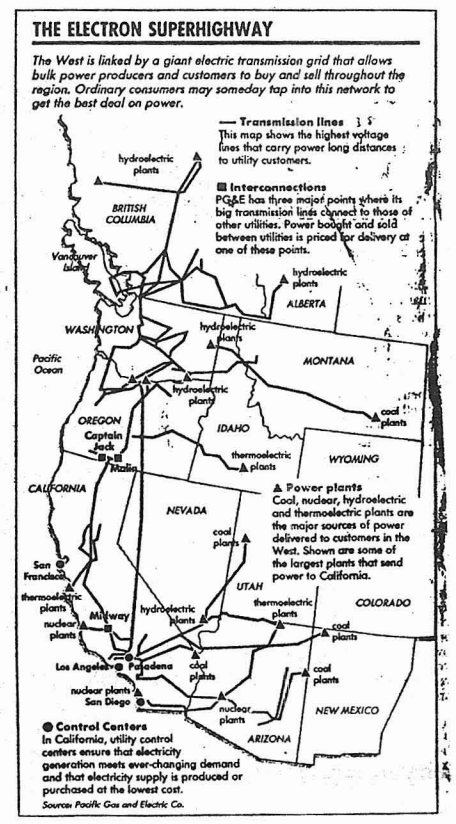
Salud, Sister Molly & Brother Ned!

Here's an overview of the Western Power Grid, with various points of interest connected by all those Wildlife snag lines. What's wrong with oil lamps/candles anyhow? And who th' hell needs TV anyway? Ninety-five percent of it's prime fertilizer material. Electricity? Plenty... through Solar/Wind. Hell, all the politicians together in one spot could generate enough hot wind to put the utilities out... permanently.

By the way, candles are indeed much more *intimate* than incandescent bulbs...

For the Whole Damn Thang,

—The Old Coyote


THE ELECTRON SUPERHIGHWAY
The West is linked by a giant electric transmission grid that allows bulk power producers and customers to buy and sell throughout the region. Ordinary consumers may someday tap into this network to get the best deal on power.
— Transmission lines
This map shows the highest voltage lines that carry power long distances to utility customers.
Interconnections
PG&E has three major points where its big transmission lines connect to those of other utilities. Power bought and sold between utilities is priced for delivery at one of these points.
Power plants
Coal, nuclear, hydroelectric and thermoelectric plants are the major sources of power delivered to customers in the West. Shown are some of the largest plants that send power to California.
Control Centers
In California, utility control centers ensure that electricity generation meets ever-changing demand and that electricity supply is produced or purchased at the lowest cost.
Source: Pacific Gas and Electric Co.
BRITISH COLUMBIA
ALBERTA
WASHINGTON
MONTANA
OREGON
IDAHO
WYOMING
CALIFORNIA
NEVADA
UTAH
COLORADO
NEW MEXICO
ARIZONA
Pacific Ocean
Vancouver Island
Captain Jack
Malin
Midway
San Francisco
Los Angeles
Pasadena
San Diego
hydroelectric plants
thermoelectric plants
nuclear plants
coal plants

Editor, *EF! Journal*:

I enjoyed learning about the July courtroom victories of Indian and environmental opponents of University of Arizona's (U of A's) proposed Mt. Graham Columbus telescope. This may not yet be the final victory for the Apaches on Mt. Graham, but it is a first step toward cultural respect in America. For the first time, and after ten years of intentional neglect of the Apache people by the US Forest Service (USFS), studies will now be required regarding the religious, cultural and spiritual impacts of the project.

An astronomer, Lucy Ziurys, who says she looks forward to working on Mt. Graham, recently boasted in Arizona newspapers that the Columbus telescope will be "the world's most powerful telescope." In fact, the Columbus, if it ever finds partners willing to insult Native Americans and obliterate US environmental law, would be half the size of Europe's Chilean scope, and much smaller than Cal Tech's Hawaiian scope. This is like an astronomer who can't tell if Jupiter is larger than Mars.

Ziurys erroneously claims the appeals court "repeatedly confirmed" that the federal agencies can relocate the project at will. Not so. On July 28, Judge Alfredo Marquez ruled that U of A, USFS, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service broke the law by clearcutting an area that Congress had not exempted from US cultural, religious and environmental protection laws. Now the area's cultural impacts must be studied for the first time as required by long-ignored US laws. The U of A and USFS knew they were breaking the law when they plotted their heinous, top secret, 4:30 AM "Pearl Harbor" (Dec. 7) clearcut of Emerald Peak. They used extreme secrecy so that Indians and environmentalists wouldn't have time to go to court to halt clearcutting at an illegal site. In struggling to justify their knavery, Ziurys and her U of A, Vatican, German and Italian pals bring dishonor to the ethical US astronomers who have systematically distanced themselves from this cultural, religious and environmental disgrace.

—Cara White
Tempe, AZ

Armed With Visions

Clear as cut glass & just as dangerous

Send Poems To:
Warrior Poets Society
Bancroft & Telegraph
ASUC Box 361
Berkeley, CA 94720-1111

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to the Authors

the journey

the ocean has a familiar
feeling to me
the creatures who chose
to stay behind
are my kin
I return to the womb
of my mother
to visit the dolphin
my twin.

Paula Kristen Simmons

HAYDUKE LIVES WITHIN US ALL

people seem to fear death
though as time passes
teeth decay
bones become brittle and
life begins to fade to black
the cycle continues

if the cause is just
if the heart is content
death is merely a matter of choice
so roll the dice

Dan Lont

BURY MY HEART

Fluid thief Colorado
ferrying silt, carving rock,
spawning catclaw and catfish.

Shadowed symmetry
of subtle
lines latticed
on upcurved canyon walls;
sheerwall rising above
narrow plateaus
where ocotillos wave
twisted arms
and seep spring feed spraygrass.

Swallowtail butterflies flit
along porous lava, cracked crosscuts
slicing down to where light splays
on water, spangling above depths
where unshackled, the current
never rests.

Digging,
my fingers scratch away pebbles,
scoop out handfuls of sand and dirt
fashioning a place
for my heart,
covering it over,
letting soil work.
Nursed in cretaceous darkness,
roots tentacle out to pierce
close-moleculed masks of stone.
Man earth, earth man,
skin dissolved, flesh gone,
bones sinking into a lost sea,
into sacred ribbons of water
chattering off the backs of mountains,
licking the wounds of the earth,
folding and unfolding her seasons
like pages of a book
we
have
forgotten
how
to
read.

Bob Finkbine

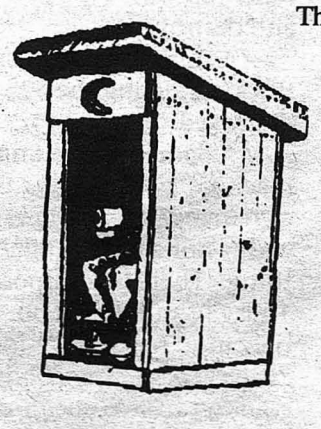
Privy To Nothing

Caught with my down, no—
With no pants at all,
No rights at all, or so we're told,
Served the subpoena in the outhouse
(The George O'Keefe Memorial Reading Room),
Stripped of all propriety by an agent
All too easy to like.
We shared a love for camouflage and adventure,
But the rifle was pointed at *me*.
"Heard you were volatile."
Only when sparks get thrown at me,
And never volatile with the authorities,
'Cause they have the most and best weapons,
And most tragically think they're doing right,
And love their children and their cats.
I offered the agent a seat,
Even though it was a single-holer.
Even with a Grand Jury,
Even with a gun to my face,
Even with the clouds of global catastrophe
Rising behind the agent's shoulder—
Country manners prevail.

Jesse Wolf Hardin

BATHROOM READINGS

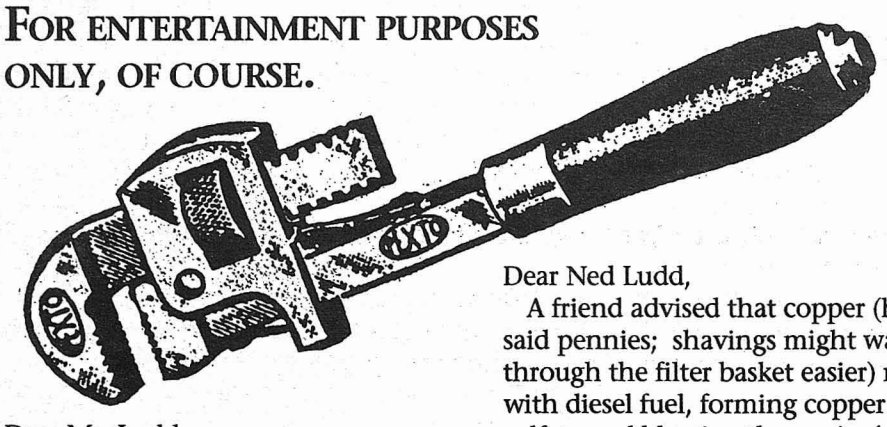
To wipe, or not to wipe—that is the question!
Whether tis nobler in the ass to suffer
The decadent comfort of Charman's squeezably soft two ply,
Or to take in arms the water hose
And with bare hands wipe the opposing ends—to squirt—to wipe,
No more to wipe, by this act say we end
The heartache of a thousand unnatural clearcuts
That rear flesh is heir to. This consummation
Devoutly to be fought. To eat,—to shit,—
To squirt! Perchance to wipe: ay there's the rub;
For in the wipe of one's ass what prodigious destruction may come,
When we have shuffed off this mortal extract,
We must give pause: take time to reflect
The myriad calamities of the water hose's wise use,
For who would bear whiffs of stinky hands, and scorn
The circling flies of the squirters righteousness,
Indeed the proud man's contumacy.



Gene Lawhorn

DEAR NED LUDD

A FORUM FOR MONKEYWRENCHING TACTICS AND IDEAS. FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY, OF COURSE.



Dear Ms. Ludd:

Cows gotcha down? Pining for the days of amber-waving, waste-high grasses across high fruited plains? Western waterways thinner than dishwashing soap, faster than a backed-up toilet, cooler than the stew in Gramma's plug-in crockpot, deeper than a leaking kiddy pool on a hot high desert day? Have friends with disposable diaper-butted babes? Do you miss the wild salmon, baby?

Friends from the high desert offer a recipe sure to delight the most finicky of cows, while reducing hazardous landfillables and removing the high desert's bovine scourge.

Ingredients:

- •Cows
- •Dirty, disposable diapers, preferably urine-soaked

(experiment with ratios)

Directions:

- •Mix ingredients liberally.
- •*Multiply recipe as necessary*

Chemical reaction:

- •Cows eat yummy, salty, hazardous diapers; innards gum up.
- •Cows die. Vultures feed. Land is saved.

Caveats:

- •Not known whether the plastic stay-dry diaper shell survives bovine digestive processes.
- •Also, it's not the cows' fault. But the corporate ranchers at home in their insurance office in the midwest tend to be more discriminating about their grazing habits.

[*Ed.: Cows actually* like *the stuff!*]

Dear Ned Ludd,

A friend advised that copper (he said pennies; shavings might wash through the filter basket easier) reacts with diesel fuel, forming copper sulfate and blowing the engine's fuel injection system to simithereens. Whoo, whoo! Too much fun!

Dear Ned,

What Should be the Fate of Cows on Public Lands?

Cows no more in '94!

Cow numbers dive in '95!

Cows are nix in '96!

Cattle to heaven in '97!

Cattle all ate by '98!

No more kine in '99!

Cows all banned in Two Thousand!

Cows no mo' in Oh Oh!

Cows all done by Oh One!

Cow men all blue in Oh Two!

Cow free by Oh Three!

Trash Hydro-Quebec Night!

Dear Ned Ludd,

It appears Paul S. in Holland is getting great solidarity support from the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) there, and the janmeral has become almost a war zone, with nonstop ELF raids. The April Earth Night went very well with elves popping up all over Germany, Netherlands, etc. with targets also being hit in Budapest, Zagrev, Malta. The Germans have called for the biggest Earth Night yet, and I hear that the Sea Elves have announced Nov. 3rd as an International "Trash Hydro-Quebec Night" in solidarity with the St. James Blockade.

Road Equipment Jujitsu

Sadly shaking his head, Guillermo Calderon stood looking at his destroyed "baby," a large paving machine. "You see, it's part of me. I work in it twelve hours a day, six days a week. It's like my baby," confessed Calderon.

The heavy-equipment operator surveyed the rest of the damage to the handful of other machines—damage estimated to cost between $500,000 and $700,000, said officials of Albuquerque Asphalt.

Sometime during the last weekend of August, at least two people vandalized and destroyed a handful of expensive heavy-equipment machines being used to pave at the Las Campanas subdivision north of Santa Fe, said undersheriff Ray Sisneros.

Sisneros said he knew two people were involved because the vandals used two front-end loaders at the same time—one from the construction site and another brought in from elsewhere. Tracks from the second machine were observed leading away from the site, paving company officials said.

Sisneros said he has "some possible suspect information," but declined to say what.

Randy Gilver, vice president of construction for Albuquerque Asphalt, said the damaged machinery included:

— A $250,000-$500,000, 16-ton paving machine rolled over on its back and destroyed.

— An $80,000-$100,000 steel-wheel roller machine flipped over on its side and destroyed.

— A smashed-in cab on a water truck, rendering the $25,000 truck destroyed.

— A damaged pneumatic rubber machine, which might be salvaged by a change of oil and new engine (sic).

"It's not a kid's vandalism kind of thing. There is a purpose behind it. This will shut down our paving operation for three or four days, "Gilver said. "Somebody off the street couldn't have come in and done it."

source: *Albuquerque Journal*

EARTH NIGHT NEWS

Sharpshooter Kills Six Cattle

Frank C. McMurry, rancher, lost six head of cattle in July on a National Forest grazing allotment near Nathrop, Colorado. All animals were shot by a .270 caliber rifle.

Sheriff's investigators said the cattle deaths were the work of an expert marksman intent upon killing the cattle, adding that there is reason to believe the marksman is anti-cattle, and possibly a member of a group or groups opposed to cattle grazing federal lands forage.

McMurry has been very vocal in opposition to the Clinton Administration's rangeland reform proposals and land management policies and regulations, and has been openly critical of the administration.

For that reason, he said, investigators are not ruling out the possiblility his cattle were specifically targeted.

"Whoever did this intended to kill the cattle. We don't think it was random, rather that it was purposeful," McMurry said.

Rewards of $3,000 are being offered for the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who killed the cattle. Parts of the reward are posted by the Chafee County Cattlemen's Association, the Chaffee Crime-stoppers program and by McMurry.

source: *Capitol Press* [a ranching paper]

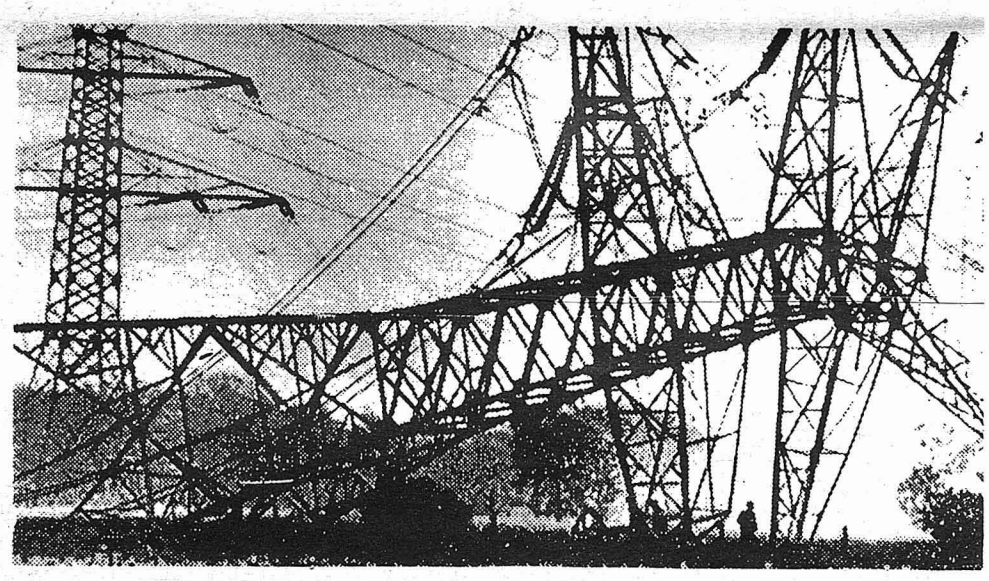
Police radar patrols get "nailed"

Someone has been dumping thousands of roofing nails in grassy areas along highways where police hide with radar to catch speeders. At least 60 tires have been damaged on cars from the Sheriff's office and Florida Highway Patrol in the Jacksonville area.

Police intercepted a citizens-band radio transmission in which an unidentified person said he was angry with ticket-writing officers and mentioned dumping more nails. Police are worried the vandalism could lead to accidents. Police used a large magnet to pick up the nails.

source: *Edmonton (Alberta) Journal*

International Earth Nights



The Earth Liberation Front, Germany, has declared Oct. 31 through Nov. 6, 1994, an International Action Week. We want to stop the development that leads to nothing. We don't think that the ruling class will give up their role or their way of destruction. We don't believe that the industry will search for or find an antidote for a single one of its poisons. Disrespectful behavior and exploitation of the environment—mainly by the imperialist industrial nations—is responsible for the imminent breakdown of all cycles of life. The consequences would be without example in the history of planet earth. But even today humanity suffers punishment for its attempts to control nature, in the form of deteriorating quality of life, famines, innumerable illnesses, etc. Unfortunately innocent animals and humans who are not to blame become the first victims of the senseless destruction. This makes it even more important to act now.

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

All over the world people are just beginning to search for appropriate answers. Targets of sabotage have stretched right across the spectrum. Last November and April, earth-trashing projects, companies and organizations were hit, even those which force us into material dependence on their money. This system tells us to take responsibility, when in fact we're facing an inheritance of ravages and poisons. That's why we will liberate ourselves and the earth from it.

Any action should not endanger life, only property. Please document your actions. Send details to either E.B.O., c/o Kopierladen M99, Nanteuffelstr. 96, 10997 Berlin, Germany or The Verge, Postbox 92066, 1090 AB Amsterdam, Netherlands

"IT'S TIME TO FIGHT BACK, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE. DON'T LET THEM MAKE THIS PLANET A LIVING HELL."

BOOK REVIEW

GOING... GOING... GREEN!

BY JOHN C. STAUBER

More than any other modern American, author Rachel Carlson is credited with giving birth to popular ecological awareness. *Silent Spring*, her bombshell 1962 best-seller, gave a dramatic, prophetic and factual account of massive agrichemical poisoning. Written with the goal of shocking the public, government and industry into action, it sowed seeds of consciousness that burst forth eight years later when millions of people demonstrated in the streets on the first Earth Day, April 22, 1970.

Now PR executive E. Bruce Harrison, who led the fight to silence *Silent Spring*, has written his own book, a how-to guide titled *Going Green: How to Communicate Your Company's Environmental Commitment.*

Harrison's "commitment" began when, at age 30, he was appointed "manager of environmental information" for the manufacturers of agricultural pesticides and other poisons, and assigned to coordinate and conduct the industry's attack against *Silent Spring*. They hit back with the PR equivalent of a prolonged carpet bombing campaign. No expense was spared in defending the fledgling agrochemical industry and its $300 million per year in sales of DDT and other toxins. The national Agricultural Chemical Association doubled its PR budget and distributed thousands of book reviews trashing *Silent Spring*.

Along the way, they pioneered environmental PR "crisis management" techniques that have now become standard industry tactics. They used emotional appeals, scientific misinformation, front groups, extensive mailings to the media and opinion leaders, and the recruitment of doctors and scientists as "objective" third party defenders of agrichemicals.

Rachel Carson succumbed to cancer on April 14, 1964, never seeing herself vindicated. Due in part to Harrison's PR work, the warnings of *Silent Spring* have never been adequately understood or heeded. Today, agrichemical contamination of soil, air, water, animals and people is one of the most ubiquitous and difficult environmental health disasters we face.

Harrison, however, is alive and thriving. In 1973, he and his wife established their own PR company, drawing in clients such as Monsanto and Dow Chemical, who were among the sponsors of the campaign against *Silent Spring*. The PR trade publication *Inside PR* named him as its 1993 "PR All Star," stating that by writing *Going Green* he had "confirmed his status as the leading [PR] thinker on environmental issues" and as a continuing "pioneer in the field."

The E. Bruce Harrison Company has offices in DC, Dallas, Austin, New York, and San Francisco, and recently opened a new office in Brussels, Belgium that will, in the words of *Inside PR*, "help its transnational clients work through the complexity" of Europe's new environmental regulations. The company employs more than 50 staff and does $6 million dollars worth of business annually for about 80 of the world's largest corporations and associations, including Coors, Clorox, R.J. Reynolds, the American Medical Association, and Vista Chemical.

Harrison's clients include the "wise use" Global Climate Coalition (which opposes environmental action to prevent global warming) and the Coalition for Vehicle Choice (which opposes emission-control regulations for automobile manufacturers). He even receives taxpayer funding from one of his clients, the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

In *Going Green*, Harrison shares some of his perspective and methods. The book includes self-promotional chapters in which he discreetly brags of the PR greenwashing successes that he has arranged for such clients as Uniroyal, General Motors, Cosmair and Zoecon. Of course, he doesn't use the word "Greenwashing." The text is filled with environmentally-correct sounding jargon that makes for clumsy reading. The phrase he uses to describe his PR work, for example, is "sustainable communications."

In* Going Green, *Harrison declares that environmental activism has "died." Today, "corporate environmentalism is more lively than external activist environmentalism."

The Greening Business

In *Going Green*, Harrison declares that environmental activism has "died," and that its death presents corporations with a tremendous opportunity to define and dominate the future of environmentalism in the name of "sustainable development," by which he means corporate business-as-usual, made palatable for the public through "sustainable communications."

Who or what killed environmental activism? According to Harrison, the "activist movement that began in the early 1960s, roughly when the use of pesticides was attacked in the book *Silent Spring* succumbed to success over a period roughly covering the last 15 years."

Since the first Earth Day in 1970, he argues, ecological activism has been transforming itself from a grassroots movement into dozens of professionally-run, competitive, non-profit businesses, epitomized by groups like the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF).

Going Green says that today's environmental groups are first and foremost business ventures, run by managers. Groups like EDF are tax-exempt, customer-based firms primarily concerned with fund-raising and maintaining a "respectable" public image. This preoccupation with funding and respectability makes them willing to sit down with industry and cut deals in which their main concern is their own financial bottom line. In Harrison's words, to "stay in the greening business," the goal of environmental groups "is not to green, but to ensure the wherewithal that enable it to look green."

Everywhere he looks, Harrison sees the rise of pro-corporate environmentalism and the demise of grassroots eco-activism. Especially since the 1992 Earth Summit in Brazil, "corporate environmentalism is now more lively than external activist environmentalism, and this trend will continue to grow."

This opens the door to tremendous opportunities for Harrison's corporate and governmental clients, whom he assists in building issue coalitions and alliances with carefully chosen environmentalists ready to reap mutual business benefits.

As an example, Harrison points to the partnership between McDonald's Restaurants and the Environmental Defense Fund. "In the late 1980s, the company slipped into its worst sales slump ever—and the anti-McDonald's drive of the green activists was at least partly blamed [EDF's Executive Director Fred] Krupp saw the golden arches of McDonald's, the nation's fast food marketing king, as a sign of opportunity... Krupp was ready to deal, and so was McDonald's."

Harrison is quite happy that the professional environmental establishment is rejecting the tactics of community organizing, street demonstrations and noisy conflicts with industry. Ironically, the unseemly confrontational tactics that the eco-professionals scorn are acknowledged by Harrison to be the main impetus for any real ecological reform.

In *Going Green*, Harrison observes that "Greening and the public-policy impact of greenism are being propelled by what I refer to as the 'AMP syndrome'—a synergy of Activists + Media + Politicians. Activists stir up conflict, naming 'victims' (various people or public sectors) and 'villains' (very often, business interests). The news media respond to conflict and publicize it. Politicians respond to media and issues, moving to protect 'victims' and punish 'villains' with legislative and regulatory actions."

Coercive Harmony

Some environmentalists haven't yet accepted the message that protest tactics are dead. In one chapter Harrison advises businesses "what to do when you're attacked by an activist group." He first suggests hiring a private detective to investigate the activists—making sure, of course, not to get caught. But strategic co-optation remains his primary strategy for achieving "sustainable communications."

"Remember that your organization and the green action group are quite similar when it comes to management goals," Harrison advises. "You're both trying to create customers...The [activist] group must be publicly observed in action, on behalf of a cause that has appeal to potential customer-publics.

"Offer to meet with them... Your task is to try and deflate their balloon and to get direct information about what's motivating them, how serious they are, who they are, what they will consider 'success.'... Be friendly. Politely put off giving more direct information. Offer to meet with them again. As long as you are talking, you may not be fighting. Maybe you can come up with multiple options for mutual benefit that will satisfy their needs."

Going Green is a book that activists should read to identify and counter the sophisticated tactics of the greenwashers, and to understand industry's co-optation of the environmental movement. As for E. Bruce Harrison, the godfather of greenwashing is "going green" all the way to the bank.

Reprinted From PR Watch
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SINAPU, Colorado's wolf reintroduction organization, has an immediate opening for a full time **OUTREACH COORDINATOR**. The job involves membership contact and development, public speaking, and clerical work. Applicants should have strong written and verbal abilities, basic computer literacy, an activist background and be willing to travel. No flakes need apply. We are offering a poverty wage. Applicants should be completely dedicated to restoring wilderness. Send a resume, cover letter, and two writing samples to:
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

1995 EF! Activist Conference

A site and dates for the annual EF! Activist Conference have been set, so get out your calendar! At past AC's folks have complained that there was only enough time to cover the biggest crises, and never enough to get to any future planning, so we added a day. The dates are February 9-12 to take advantage of the full moon (Ooo-oooh!). The setting will be a permaculture farm near Blanco, TX. There will be camping, lodging and sheltered meeting spaces. And there's the *cutest* lil' spring-fed river (swimming in TX in February is not unheard of...). Entertainment for Saturday night is being lined up, with at least Darryl, Robert, and the legendary Danny Dolinger.

As per tradition, we should be able to find some trouble to get into just after the conference. Afterwards, folks are talking about setting out for Big Bend National Park. There is a conference on Habitat Conservation Plans, sponsored by the Southwest Center for Environmental Diversity, the week before the activist conference. So, start thinking about staying a week or two.

We think that two priorities for an AC are security and regional representation, so we agreed on a vouching system for participants. Before we begin, everybody present will need to be vouched for by at least two folks who have some history with the movement, no exceptions. So if you don't think anybody knows you well enough, you probably shouldn't come. Sorry, but the EF! movement has been the target of infiltration, and there is no other way to ensure that we can speak freely.

As far as regional representation goes, we think it will be easy since Texas is nice and central on the continent, but it will also be something we'll work on. We will be putting out some grant applications, so hopefully there will be some travel $$ for those who absolutely need it. If you know of easy money out there for such an event, please let us know. Priority will be given to carloads of folks from multiple states, so start your carpool planning. We'uns discourage plane travel, but we will be able to arrange shuttle service from Austin Airport to Blanco.

To help with our budget preparation, we are asking for early confirmations (even tentatives). Please RSVP ASAP! to Austin EF!, POB 7292, Austin, TX 78713, (512) 320-0413 or 474-6779.

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9/30-10/2	**Astoria, OR**	Clatsop Community College	(503) 325-3831
10/5	**Corvallis, OR**	OSU, Majestic Theatre	(503) 754-4227
10/7-8	**Boise, ID**	Boise High School	(208) 336-9211
10/11	**La Grande, OR**	(TBA)	(503) 437-2520
10/15-16	**Ashland, OR**	Ashland High School	(503) 482-8771
10/19	**Newport, OR**	Performing Arts Center	
10/21-22	**Point Arena, CA**	Arena Theatre	(707) 882-2125
10/27	**Arcata, CA**	HSU, Van Duzer Theatre	(707) 826-7757
10/29-30	**Sonoma County, CA**	(TBA)	

For more information call the theaters above or *Human Nature* at (707) 629-3670.

1st International EF! Gathering?

Earth Day London will be held October 21-30, 1994, featuring Earth First!, Hunt Sabs, peace, squatting, eco-feminism, wilderness, green anarchy, anti-roads, rainforests, anti-fascism, eco-labour, pollution prevention, discussions, workshops, poetry, music and much, much more. Vegan food will be available and help is needed with kids' stuff, money, speakers, bands, etc.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

- Oct. 23—Levitation of Parliament
- Oct. 25—Music at George Robey
- Oct. 26—Approach Pub (gathering all day) with live bands and acoustic music in the evening
- Oct. 27—Stop the City, Protest the Crime Bill

For more information contact: *Anarchy in the UK*, Earth Day, Box ZZ, 111 Magdalen Rd., Oxford 1X4 1RQ

Midwest Headwaters EF! News: *Out of Hibernation*

Greetings from America's Prairieland!

We here in Wisconsin have known some particularly angry winters in the past couple of years, and dumb as we cheeseheaded EF!ers are, we never thought to go into hibernation. In contrast, the local EF! paper, *Midwest Headwaters EF! News*, is a smarter creature than we, and it's waited out the cold winters until the time was right.

Well the time is right, and newly-formed Four Lakes Earth First! (Madison), is calling for submissions. If you are involved in a campaign in the upper midwest (IA, IL, MN, MI, or WI), and you have something to submit, do it! The paper is now called *Midwest Headwaters* and you can reach us at FLEF!, 730 State St., Madison, WI 53703, or call (608) 255-8765. Submission deadline is Oct. 1. We are putting out a special call for articles dealing with agricultural issues, roads, consumerism, corporate america, and coalition building with labor/gaylesbi/animal/etc.

FREE Tree Shelters Available

Everyone knows that great forests grow from tiny seeds. But they may not know that before most seeds have a chance to grow into mighty trees, they are usually eaten by animals, insects or they succumb to adverse weather conditions. Eco-Rangers! Have faith in the seed. Reforest *your* world with FREE tree shelters and some knowledgeable assistance.

Tree shelters are for protecting germinating seeds and seedlings from animals and weather damage. They also dramatically accelerate plant growth.

The Bishnois, pioneers of the use of upgraded seeds in combination with polyester tree protectors, are offering FREE their recycled tree shelters (recycled from medical x-ray film) and their assistance in seed selection and planting. They are an ex-company dedicated to "the noncommercial reforestation of the earth and they believe that by removing all the obstacles to tree planting ... a lot of budding eco-rangers will be called into action." Their program has already helped many people with tree planting projects.

For information on how to receive your FREE tree shelters, contact **The Bishnois at 3120 High St., Sacramento, CA 95815, (916) 922-9319.**

RIFF RAFF ROADSHOW

Rendezvous favorite Casey Neill and his *Riff Raff Roadshow* take to the road from October 18 to November 6. Casey also has the Cove/Mallard Slideshow with him, so if you want that, he'll do it. His route is from California to Nevada. For information, call (206) 705-3345.

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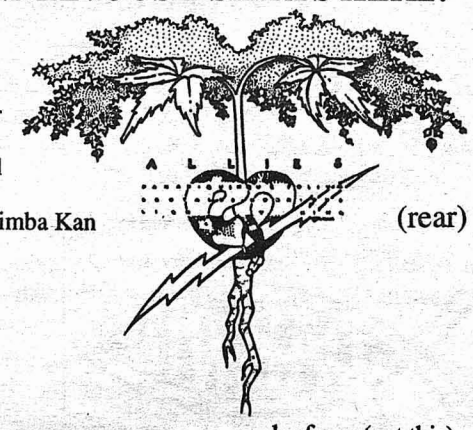
This is the best RRR t-shirt ever!—J. Taylor
It was fucking beautiful!—Kraig Bennyhill
Does it have to glow in the dark?—N. Ludd
My t-shirt faded.—Gin Phlegm
Why did they get so many dang smalls?—Dimba Kan



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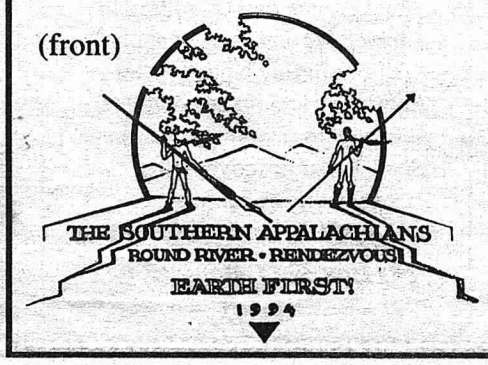

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A CALL TO THE DESERT
Nevada Test Site October 8-10

Corbin Harney, Western Shoshone Spiritual Leader, has sent out "A Call to the Desert" for the annual gathering near the Nevada Test Site. It begins on Saturday, October 8 with a traditional sunrise ceremony and continues through Monday, October 10, when participants will gather at the gates of the Nevada Test Site for an observance of Indigenous Peoples' Day.

It is recommended that persons attending this event be as self-sufficient as possible. Meals, drinking water, and showers WILL NOT BE PROVIDED. As in the past, the Western Shoshone National Council asks that no weapons, drugs or alcohol be brought to the land. They also ask that dogs be left at home, as they disrupt ceremonial areas and fragile desert springs at this unique desert oasis.

ITEMS TO BRING:
- Natural fiber blankets and firewood for the sweatlodges
- A container of water from your home or special place for a water ceremony
- Drinking water for your group
- Food to prepare alone or communally
- Clothing and shelter for temperature extremes, sunscreen and a hat

For more information, or to let us know you are coming, please call. If you are able to come early or stay late, please let us know ASAP. Contact Nevada Desert Experience, POB 4487, Las Vegas, NV 89127, (702) 646-4814.

Wounded Earth Summit at Black Mesa Big Mountain, Arizona

BY COUSIN RICHIE

The Indigenous Diné elders of Black Mesa and Big Mountain, on the Hopi/Navajo reservation in Arizona, are sponsoring a Wounded Earth Summit. Held Oct. 4 through Nov. 4 on the reservation, this will be a gathering of indigenous peoples, activists, media, healers and helpers, to support the struggle against the US Government's and Peabody Coal's forceful relocation, genocide, and environmental destruction. We can help the elders with their daily tasks, and by studying the issues, supporting and developing legal strategies, letter writing, organizing resistance, soil testing, sensitive species surveys, construction projects, etc. Also needed are videographers, photographers, trucks, tools camping and cooking gear, warm clothes, sleeping bags, food, large water jugs, and large tarps.

Additionally, the elders have petitioned the US for two elected seats, to be held by indigenous peoples, that hold the power of veto in Clinton's new inter-agency Council on Environmental Justice. Letters and action are needed immediately. We need a good lawyer and an office vehicle for an unpaid, full-time office manager. The Elders and family could use much help and supplies. For more info call Cousin Richie at (510) 658-3899 or write the Alliance, Box 180, Pinon, AZ 86501.

Western Shoshone Defense Project

The Humboldt River begins its journey in the Independence and Ruby Mountains of northeastern Nevada traveling across long expanses of basin and range until disappearing in the marshy Humboldt Sink near the town of Lovelock, NV. This is the heart of Newe Sogobia, the Western Shoshone's sacred homeland. Presently the beauty is being ripped out from under the Western Shoshone (Newe) by some of the largest mining transnationals: Newmont, Barrick, and Placer Dome among others. Open pit, cyanide heap-leach gold mines are proliferating across the basin.

The situation has grown worse in the recent years as many of the mines de-water (pump out) the ground water aquifer to access deep gold deposits. In Crescent Valley, NV, Placer Dome and Kennecott are proposing a joint venture to create the Pipeline Project, a new mine requiring de-watering at an initial rate of 49,000 acre feet per year. (Crescent Valley is also home to Newe elders Mary and Carrie Dann who have non-violently resisted the expropriation of their people's land for over twenty years.) The Pipeline Project and its future expansions were developed without consulting the Newe, and threatens to dry up springs and other wetlands within their traditional use area. In the arid Great Basin, springs provide critical wildlife habitat. To the Newe these areas are of great spiritual significance, the homes spirit beings and a source of water which gives life to all beings. The destruction of these areas amounts to ecological and cultural genocide.

The Western Shoshone Defense Project is seeking help in responding to the Cortez Pipeline Gold Deposit Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). **Comments on the DEIS must be postmarked by November 4.** Copies can be obtained by calling or writing Dave Davis, EIS Team Leader, BLM, Battle Mountain D. O., 50 Bastian Way, POB 1420, Battle Mountain, NV 89820, (702) 635-4000.

More information can be obtained by contacting the Western Shoshone Defense Project, POB 211106, Crescent Valley, NV 89821, (702) 468-0230.

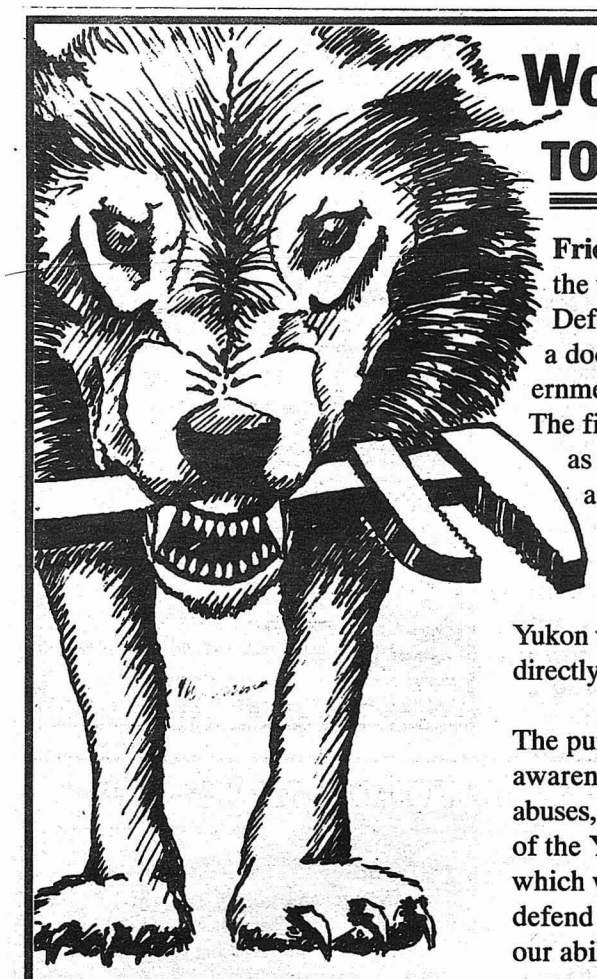
Peltier Solidarity Week

As part of this year's International Leonard Peltier Solidarity Week, there will be a Leonard Peltier Clemency Walk on the Border, October 17-23. Walkers will meet at Peace Arch Park on the WA/BC border at 1 PM, October 23, for an international rally. Other ideas include a spiritual run from Olympia to Seattle, a UN press conference, and an All Nations canoe convergence.

Help is needed! Organizers, contacts, runners, riders, horses, walkers, media contacts, artists, printers and people willing to poster are needed. Organizations' and groups' endorsements, as well as donations, are requested. Publications are also encouraged to spread the word.

every activist, be they from the human rights, peace, environmental, or any other social movement, is in danger of governmental harassment. Stand up now. Leonard Peltier is in prison for us, we should be out here for him!

For more information contact the NW Leonard Peltier Support Network, POB 5464, Tacoma, WA 98415-0464.



WOLF DEFENDERS TO TOUR EUROPE

Friends of the Wolf (FOW), the world's only frontline Wolf Defence Group, has just produced a documentary on the Yukon government's aerial Wolf kill program. The film will entertain and educate as it exposes the flawed science and political corruption behind the slaughter. Filmed entirely in Canada's North, it will take you deep into the frozen Yukon wilderness as **FOW** attempts to directly intervene in last winter's kill.

◊ ◊ ◊

The purpose of the tour is to promote awareness of Canada's wildlife abuses, to encourage a tourism boycott of the Yukon and to raise money which will allow us to continuously defend the Wolf Nation to the best of our ability.

We need help from European activists to coordinate roadshows! The tour can begin October 1st and run until mid November.

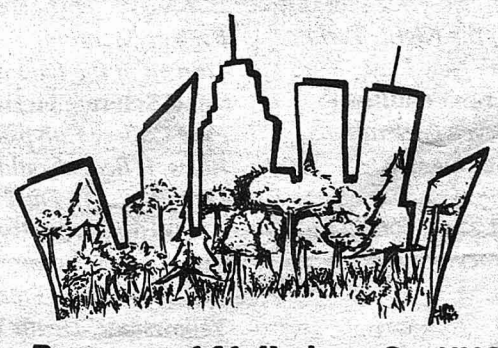
FOW could also use financial backing to begin the tour and to get our bodies across the ocean. If you can help in any way please contact us at:

Friends of the Wolf, B.C.
P.O. Box 2983
Vancouver, B.C., V6B 3X4
Canada
Phone: (604) 290 - 9256

Wetlands in New York City?!

Wetlands Preserve is proud to be an Earth First! center right in the belly of the beast - New York City. Most folks freak out when they come to NYC, so we want you to feel welcome at Wetlands. We're a grassroots activist center in a bar/nightclub in downtown Manhattan with great live rock 7 nights a week. There's no cover or minimum most Mondays and Tuesdays and Eco-Saloons (special activist meetings) are on Tuesdays at 6:30pm.

Roadshows and special guests perform here, so don't hesitate to call if you're comin' out this way. NYC area activists reading this ad should check out the Federal Land Action Group (FLAG) which focuses on Canadian and U.S. forest issues. Every fourth Tuesday FLAG takes action on local, national and international campaigns. We use petitions, letters, faxes, phone calls, demos and direct actions to defend our great Mother. All levels of experience and involvement are needed and welcome. For more information call James Hansen or Jim Ace at (212) 966-5244. Peace!



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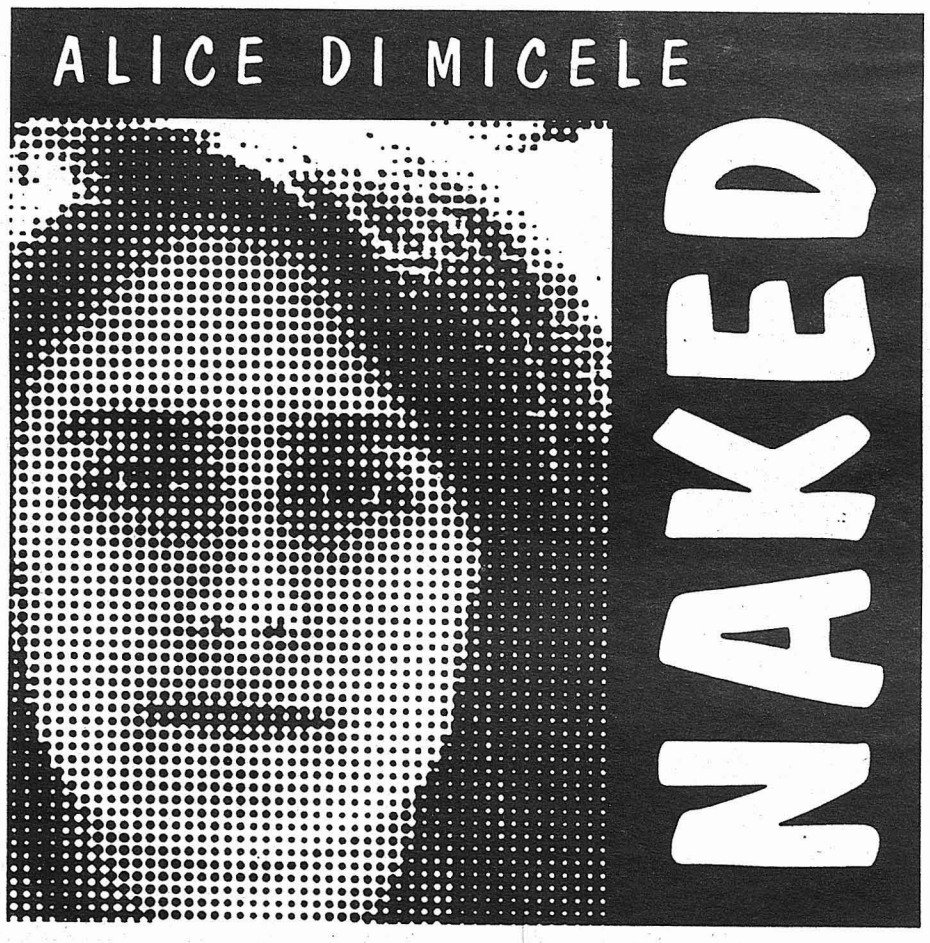

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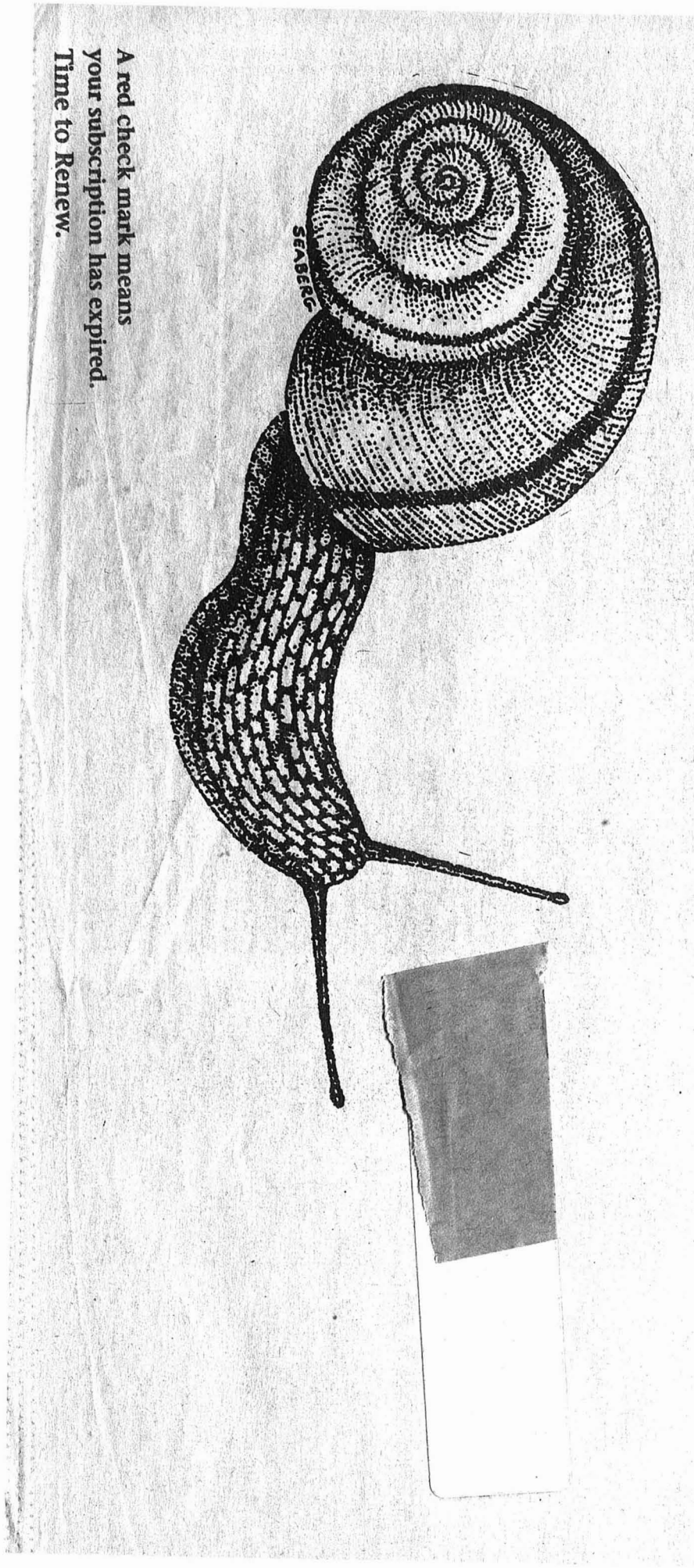

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